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A statistical report.

Third Edition.

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WOMEN IN CANADA

A Statistical Report

THIRD EDITION



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Statistics Canada
Housing, Family and Social Statistics Division

Women in Canada A Statistical Report

Third Edition

Target groups project

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HIGHLIGHTS

- Women currently make up slightly more than half of all people living in Canada. In 1991, there were 14.2 million women of all ages in Canada, compared with 13.9 million men.
- Women constitute a particularly large share of the senior population. In 1991, women represented 58% of all people aged 65 and over in Canada. This is largely a result of longer life expectancy among women. For instance, a female child born in 1991 could expect to live an average of 81 years, compared with 75 years for a male newborn.
- Many women in Canada are immigrants from another country. In 1991, there were 2.2 million female immigrants living in Canada, representing just over 16% of the total female population. This figure has increased only slightly from 15% in 1971 and 14% in 1951.
- The number of visible minority women in Canada has grown considerably since the mid-1980s. In 1991, an estimated 1.3 million women belonged to a visible minority group, up from 800,000 in 1986. As a result, the share of the female population accounted for by women in a visible minority has increased from 6% in 1986 to 9% in 1991. At the same time, there were 522,000 Aboriginal women living in Canada, representing 4% of all women.
- Immigrant and visible minority women make up a relatively large proportion of the female population in several of the largest census metropolitan areas in Canada. In 1991, 39% of the female population in Toronto and 31% of that in Vancouver consisted of immigrants. Similarly, visible minority women accounted for approximately one in four women living in Toronto (26%) and Vancouver (24%) in 1991.
- In 1991, 2.2 million women, 16% of the total female population, had disabilities. In addition, the likelihood of women having disabilities increases with age; in 1991, 48% of women aged 65 and over had disabilities.
- Heart diseases and cancer are the leading causes of death among women; together these two diseases accounted for over half of all female deaths in 1992. However, while about the same number of women die each year from lung and breast cancer, many more women contract breast cancer. It is estimated, for example, that there will be a total of 17,700 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed among women in 1995, compared with 7,300 new cases of lung cancer.
- The percentage of women who currently smoke is much lower than it was fifteen years ago. In 1994, 28% of all women aged 15 and over were current smokers, down from 32% in 1985 and 37% in 1978. There has, however, been an increase in the prevalence of smoking among teenaged women in recent years; in 1994, 29% of women aged 15-19 were current smokers, up from 21% in 1990.
- While the large majority of women live with their family, there have been changes in the structure of family living over the past decade. For example, the proportion of women who were spouses in a husband-wife family declined from 56% in 1981 to 53% in 1991, while the share who were living in a common-law relationship rose from 4% to 7%.
- Women also continue to make up the large majority of lone parents in Canada. In 1991, over 80% of all single-parent families were headed by women, a figure that has remained relatively constant since the 1960s.
- Fully half (51%) of all senior women in Canada do not live with their families. In 1991, 38% of all women aged 65 and over lived alone, 11% lived with other relatives, and 2% lived with unrelated people. In comparison, 22% of senior men did not live with their family in 1991.
- The birth rate among Canadian women has dropped dramatically over the past three decades. In 1991, there were 56 births for every 1,000 woman aged 15-49, down from 116 in 1959. Most of the decline in the birth rate, though, occurred in the early 1960s.
- Although there have been substantial increases in the educational attainment of women during the last two decades, women are still less likely than men to have a university degree. In 1991, 10% of women aged 15 and over were university graduates, compared with 13% of men. However, this is smaller than the difference recorded in 1971, when 3% of women, versus 7% of men, had a university degree.
- The gap between the educational attainment of women and men is likely to continue to narrow, as women currently account for the majority of all full-time university students in Canada. In the 1992-93 academic year, women accounted for 52% of all full-time university students.
- Women's share of university enrolment declines, however, at the graduate levels. In 1992-93, women made up just 35% of those working full-time toward

their doctorates and 46% of those in Master's programs, whereas they made up 53% of all full-time students in Bachelor's and first professional degree programs.

- Relatively few women are enrolled in postsecondary science faculties. In 1992-93, women accounted for just 19% of university enrolment in mathematics and physical sciences and 11% of those in engineering and applied sciences. As well, women made up only 32% of community college students enrolled full-time in natural science programs, 30% of those in mathematics and computer science, and just 12% of those in both engineering and other technologies.
- Over the past two decades, there has been substantial growth in the number of women who are employed in the labour force. In 1994, 52% of all women aged 15 and over had jobs, up from 42% in 1976. In contrast, the proportion of men with jobs fell sharply in the same period, dropping from 73% in 1976 to 65% in 1994. As a result, women represented 45% of all paid workers in 1994, up from 37% in 1976.
- Employment levels vary among different groups of women. For example, among women aged 15 and over in 1991, 56% of those in a visible minority, 50% of immigrants, and 47% of Aboriginals were employed. As well, 41% of women aged 15-64 with disabilities were employed that year.
- There has been particularly sharp growth in the employment of women with children in the last decade. Between 1981 and 1994, the employment rate of women with children less than age 16 rose from 50% to 63%. At the same time, employment of women with no children of this age living at home only rose from 46% to 50%.
- Although the employment rate of women increases dramatically with educational attainment, women with postsecondary training are still somewhat less likely than their male counterparts to be employed. In 1994, 77% of female university graduates, versus 82% of male graduates, were employed. Similarly, among those with other types of postsecondary qualifications, 65% of women, compared with 76% of men, worked for pay or profit.
- The vast majority of all part-time jobs are held by women. In 1994, 69% of all part-time workers in Canada were female, a figure that has changed little over the past two decades. In 1994, 1.6 million women, 26% of all those with jobs, worked part-time, compared with just 9% of employed men.
- A growing number of women work part-time because they can not find full-time employment. In 1994, over 500,000 women, 34% of all female

part-time workers, indicated that they wanted full-time employment, but could only find part-time work. This was up from 22% in 1989.

- The majority of employed women work in occupations in which women have traditionally been concentrated. In 1994, 70% of all employed women were working in either teaching, nursing and related health occupations, clerical positions, or sales and service occupations. This compared with just 31% of employed men.
- In recent years, women have increased their representation in several professional fields in which few women have worked in the past. Women, for example, made up 32% of all doctors and dentists in 1994, up from 18% in 1982.
- On the other hand, women remain very much a minority among professionals employed in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics. In fact, just 19% of professionals in these occupations in 1994 were women, a figure which has changed little since 1982 (15%).
- Even when employed, women are still largely responsible for looking after their homes and families. In 1992, employed women with a spouse and at least one child under age 5 spent 5.3 hours a day on household activities, including domestic work, primary child care, and shopping. This was about two hours more per day than their male counterparts spent on unpaid household work.
- Female labour force participants currently experience lower levels of unemployment than their male counterparts. In 1994, 656,000 women, 9.9% of all female labour force participants, were unemployed, compared with 10.8% of male labour force participants. This represents a reversal of the situation in the late 1980s, when unemployment was higher among women than men.
- As well, several groups of women tend to experience higher levels of unemployment than does the female population as a whole. In 1991, the unemployment rate of those aged 15 and over was 10.7% for immigrant women, 13.4% for visible minority women and 17.7% for Aboriginal women. At the same time, 16.0% of female labour force participants with disabilities between the ages of 15 and 64 were unemployed.
- Women generally have lower incomes than men. In 1993, the average annual pre-tax income of women aged 15 and over from all sources was \$16,500, just 58% the average income of men (\$28,600). At the same time, women were more likely than men to have no source of personal income in 1993, 12% versus 5%.

- The income situation of women varies greatly depending on their family status. Most notably, lone-parent families headed by women have the lowest incomes of all family types. In 1993, families headed by female lone parents under age 65 had an average income of \$23,300, only 39% as much as non-elderly two-spouse families with children (\$59,700), and just 66% that of lone-parent families headed by men (\$35,400).
- Women make up more than half of the total population with low incomes. In 1993, 56% of all persons living in low-income situations were female. This represented 2.8 million women, or 20% of the total female population, compared with 16% of the male population.
- Certain groups of women are particularly likely to have incomes which fall below the Low Income Cut-offs. For instance, in 1993, 56% of unattached seniors, 64% of unattached women aged 15-24, and 60% of female lone parents lived in low-income situations.
- The incidence of low income is also especially high among visible minority women and Aboriginal women. In 1990, 28% of visible minority women and 33% of Aboriginal women lived in a low-income situation.
- The average earnings of employed women are substantially lower than those of men. In 1993, women employed on a full-time, full-year basis earned an average of \$28,400, just 72% the figure for their male counterparts. However, this ratio is up from 68% in 1990 and around 64% in the early 1980s.
- At all levels of educational attainment, women's earnings are lower than those of men. Even female university graduates employed full-time, full-year only earned 75% as much as their male colleagues in 1993, while the figure was 74% for women with a non-university postsecondary certificate and 72% for high school graduates.
- The influx of married women into the labour force over the past three decades has resulted in an increase in the number of dual-earner families. In 1992, both spouses were employed in 61% of all husband-wife families, almost double the figure in 1967 (33%).
- The relative importance of wives' earnings to total family income is reflected in the percentage of families whose income would fall below the Low Income Cut-offs were it not for the contribution of wives' earnings. In 1992, 157,000 dual-earner families, 4% of the total, had low incomes. However, it is estimated that the number with low incomes would jump to 599,000, or 16% of the total, if wives' earnings were deducted from the income of these families.
- Women make up a relatively small proportion of those charged with criminal offences. In 1993, 24% of adults charged with property crimes and 11% of those charged with violent offences were women.
- In 1993, there were 208 female homicide victims, representing about a third of all homicide victims that year. However, women made up almost two-thirds (59%) of all homicide victims killed in a domestic relationship, while they represented only 22% of those killed by an acquaintance and just 12% of those killed by a stranger.
- In 1993, 3% of all women who were married or living common law, reported that they had experienced wife assault at least once during the 12 months prior to the Violence Against Women Survey. As well, 6% of women in Canada had been sexually assaulted and 3% had been physically assaulted that year by dates or boyfriends, other known men or strangers.
- Women are much more likely than men to feel worried about their personal security. For instance, 42% of women aged 15 and over reported they felt unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark in 1993, over four times the figure for men (10%).

INTRODUCTION

There have been considerable changes in the fabric of Canadian society over the past two decades, many of which have had an impact on the status of women. This, the third edition of **Women in Canada**, documents and traces many of these changes by presenting relevant statistical series from Statistics Canada and other sources. This report is intended to paint a broad portrait of the female population; as such, it includes many indicators describing women's income, housing, health, education, employment, family life and criminal victimization. As well, most of these indicators are compared with those of men to provide some measure of women's progress, or lack of progress, in achieving greater equality in these areas.

Just as the experiences of women are different from those of men in many spheres of Canadian life, certain groups of women are unique within the female population. For these reasons, separate chapters have been included to reflect the experiences of immigrant women, visible minority women, Aboriginal women, and women with disabilities.

This report is primarily national in scope and most of the statistics were assembled from published sources. However, a number of series include previously unpublished data from sources such as the Census of Canada, the Labour Force Survey, the Survey of Consumer Finances, the General Social Survey, and the Violence Against Women Survey. Those seeking precise information about data comparability and data quality should consult the source publications directly or contact the Target Groups Project, Statistics Canada.

Although efforts have been made to describe the situation of women in Canada as comprehensively as possible,

this report is not exhaustive, and inevitably, certain data gaps exist. As such, numerous references and a detailed bibliography have been included as a further aid to those interested in these issues.

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WOMEN IN THE POPULATION

by Marcia Almey

Women in the majority

Women currently make up slightly more than half of all people living in Canada. In 1991,¹ there were 14.2 million women of all ages in Canada, compared with 13.9 million males. As such, females accounted for 50.4% of the total population. (Table 1.1)

In fact, women's share of the total population has grown steadily over the course of the century. In 1991, 50.4% of the total Canadian population were female, up from 50.2% in 1981 and 48.4% in 1921. This trend is largely attributed to the fact that mortality rates among women are much lower than those among men, with the result that women live considerably longer, on average, than men.²

Age distribution

Women born during the baby boom years from the late 1940s to the mid-1960s make up the largest group of women in Canada. In 1991, 34% of all females were aged 25-44, whereas 27% were aged 5-24 and 19% were aged 45-64. At the same time, 13% of all Canadian women were aged 65 and over. (Table 1.2)

There has, however, been dramatic growth in the share of the population accounted for by senior women during the last several decades. In 1991, 1.9 million women, 13% of all Canadian women, were aged 65 or over. The latter figure was up from 11% in 1981 and 5% in 1921. (Table 1.3)

The share of the population accounted for by senior women is expected to continue growing during the next several decades. For example, it is projected³ that by the year 2016, when women born during the baby boom begin turning 65, 18% of all women will be aged 65 and over. Furthermore, by 2041, an estimated 25% of women will be seniors. Indeed, it is projected that there will be almost 5.5 million women aged 65 or over in Canada by 2041.

The number of women in the very oldest age categories has also risen substantially in recent decades. In 1991, there were just over 200,000 women aged 85 or over, compared with 84,000 in 1971 and only 11,000 in 1921. Women aged 85 and over currently represent 1.4% of all women, up from 0.3% in 1921.

The number of women in the very oldest age groups is expected to increase rapidly in the approaching decades. Projections suggest that there will be five times as many

women aged 85 and over in the year 2041 as there were in 1991. In fact, it is estimated that there will be almost 1.1 million women aged 85 and over in 2041, representing 5% of all women in Canada.

It is also important to note that women constitute a particularly large share of the total senior population, again, largely because of longer life expectancy among women. In 1991, women represented 58% of all people aged 65 and over in Canada. (Table 1.2)

Women account for even greater shares of the oldest segments of the population. In 1991, women made up 70% of all persons aged 85 and older and 60% of those aged 75-84. In contrast, they made up 55% of people aged 65-74, 51% of those aged 55-64, and less than half of the population in age groups below age 55.

Women in the provinces and territories

Women make up more than half the population in every province except Newfoundland and Alberta. In 1991, women represented 50.7% of all residents of Quebec, 50.6% in Ontario and Nova Scotia, 50.5% in Prince Edward Island, 50.4% in New Brunswick and Manitoba, 50.2% in British Columbia, and 50.1% in Saskatchewan. At the same time, women made up 49.8% of the population in Newfoundland and 49.6% in Alberta. (Table 1.4)

The fact that women are in the minority in Newfoundland and Alberta relates, in part, to differences in age. The populations of these two provinces are relatively young and women generally make up smaller shares of younger age groups than of older ones. Indeed, in 1991, Newfoundland and Alberta had larger shares of their female populations under age 25 than any other province, while they had the smallest shares aged 65 and over. In the latter case, 11% of women in Newfoundland and 10% of those in Alberta were aged 65 and over, whereas the figure in the other provinces ranged from 13% in Ontario and Quebec to almost 16% in Saskatchewan. (Table 1.5)

Women also make up less than half the population in each of the two territories. In 1991, less than 48% of all people in both the Northwest Territories and the Yukon were women. As with Newfoundland and Alberta, this trend may be due to the relatively young populations in the two territories. In fact, over half of all females in the Northwest Territories in 1991 were under age 25. At the same time, just 4% of women in the Yukon and only 3% of those in the Northwest Territories were aged 65 and over.

Urban/rural distribution⁴

As with the rest of the population, the large majority of women live in urban areas. In 1991, 78% of all women lived in an area classified as urban. In fact, the majority of women, 57% in 1991, lived in a census metropolitan area, that is, an urban area with a population of at least 100,000. Another 13% of women lived in a census agglomeration, that is, an urban area with a population between 10,000 and 99,999, while 7% lived in other urban areas with populations under 10,000. At the same time, 22% of women lived in rural areas. (Table 1.6)

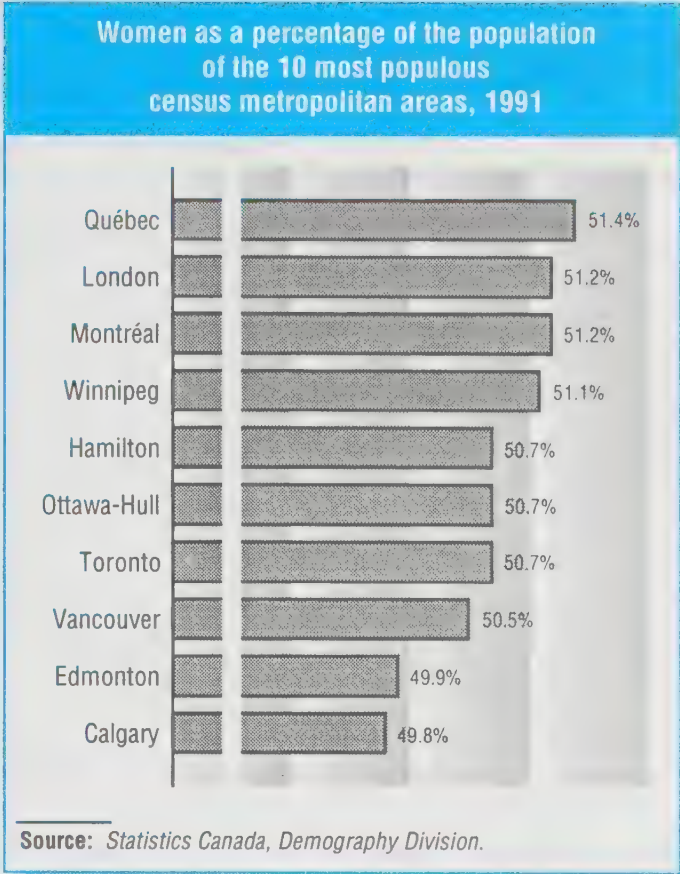
As well, women represent more than half the population in urban areas, while they make up less than half of the rural population. In 1991, women made up 51% of people living in urban areas, compared with 49% of the rural non-farm population and 46% of the rural farm population.

Women also account for more than half the population in most of the ten largest census metropolitan areas in Canada. In 1991, around 51% of the residents of each of Québec City, London, Montréal, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Ottawa-Hull, Toronto, and Vancouver were women. The exceptions to this pattern were Edmonton and Calgary, where women represented slightly less than half the population. (Chart 1.1)

¹ Except where indicated, the figures in this chapter for the period 1971 to 1991 are based on revised intercensal population estimates at July 1, adjusted for net census undercoverage and including non-permanent residents and returning Canadians. For more information on these concepts see *Revised Intercensal Population and Family Estimates, July 1, 1971-1991*, Statistics Canada Catalogue 91-537.

² For more information on the mortality rates and life expectancy of women see Chapter 4.

Chart 1.1



³ These projections assume medium growth in the population.

⁴ The data in this section have not been adjusted for net census undercoverage and, therefore, are not directly comparable with other data in this chapter.

Marcia Almey is an analyst with the Target Groups Project.

Table 1.1
Total population, 1921-1991

	Females	Males	Total	Females as a % of the population
		000s		
1921	4,258.3	4,529.6	8,787.9	48.4
1931	5,002.2	5,374.5	10,376.8	48.2
1941	5,606.1	5,900.5	11,506.7	48.7
1951	6,920.6	7,088.9	14,009.4	49.4
1956	7,928.9	8,151.9	16,080.8	49.3
1961	9,019.4	9,218.9	18,238.2	49.4
1966	9,960.5	10,054.3	20,014.9	49.8
1971 ¹	10,961.4	11,065.0	22,026.4	49.8
1976 ¹	11,752.6	11,764.9	23,517.5	50.0
1981 ¹	12,501.0	12,399.0	24,900.0	50.2
1986 ¹	13,190.9	13,012.9	26,203.8	50.3
1991 ²	14,179.5	13,938.1	28,117.6	50.4

¹Adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.

²Adjusted for net census undercoverage.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 91-537 and 93-310.

Table 1.2
Population, by age, 1991¹

	Females		Males		Females as a % of the age group
	000s	%	000s	%	
Persons aged					
Under 5	952.9	6.7	1,000.3	7.2	48.8
5-14	1,887.2	13.3	1,978.7	14.2	48.8
15-24	1,982.2	14.0	2,052.8	14.7	49.1
25-34	2,532.4	17.9	2,594.2	18.6	49.4
35-44	2,233.0	15.7	2,250.5	16.1	49.8
45-54	1,496.7	10.6	1,517.3	10.9	49.7
55-64	1,231.8	8.7	1,196.8	8.6	50.7
65-74	1,056.4	7.4	862.2	6.2	55.1
75-84	606.7	4.3	397.8	2.9	60.4
85 and over	200.2	1.4	87.7	0.6	69.5
Total aged 65 and over	1,863.3	13.1	1,347.7	9.7	58.0
Total	14,179.5	100.0	13,938.3	100.0	50.4

¹Adjusted for net census undercoverage.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 91-537.

Table 1.3
Senior women as a percentage of the population, 1921-1991 and projections to 2041

	Women aged							
	65-74		75-84		85 and over		Total aged 65 and over	
	000s	% of all women	000s	% of all women	000s	% of all women	000s	% of all women
1921	138.6	3.3	55.4	1.3	11.3	0.3	205.3	4.8
1931	193.5	3.9	73.9	1.4	14.1	0.3	281.5	5.6
1941	251.2	4.4	105.9	1.9	19.8	0.4	376.9	6.7
1951	360.1	5.2	145.1	2.1	29.8	0.4	535.0	7.7
1961	453.5	5.0	217.8	2.4	45.7	0.5	717.0	7.9
1971 ¹	582.1	5.3	307.4	2.8	84.1	0.8	973.5	8.9
1981 ¹	812.1	6.4	417.6	3.3	131.7	1.1	1,361.5	10.9
1991 ²	1,056.4	7.4	606.7	4.3	200.2	1.4	1,863.3	13.1
Projections ³								
2016	1,778.6	9.4	973.6	5.2	550.7	2.9	3,302.9	17.6
2021	2,112.0	10.8	1,143.8	5.9	584.8	3.0	3,840.6	19.7
2026	2,375.6	11.7	1,436.7	7.1	626.5	3.1	4,438.8	21.9
2031	2,536.1	12.2	1,695.4	8.1	728.6	3.4	4,960.1	23.8
2036	2,459.8	11.5	1,904.8	8.9	896.4	4.2	5,261.0	24.6
2041	2,348.7	10.8	2,024.5	9.3	1,051.4	4.8	5,424.6	24.9

¹Adjusted for net census undercoverage and non-permanent residents.

²Adjusted for net census undercoverage.

³Projections based on assumptions of medium population growth.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 91-537 and 93-310.

Table 1.4
Population, by province and territory, 1991¹

	Women		Men		Women as a % of the provincial population
	000s	%	000s	%	
Newfoundland	289.0	2.0	291.0	2.1	49.8
Prince Edward Island	66.1	0.4	64.7	0.4	50.5
Nova Scotia	464.7	3.3	453.5	3.3	50.6
New Brunswick	377.3	2.7	371.3	2.7	50.4
Quebec	3,591.4	25.3	3,489.8	25.0	50.7
Ontario	5,297.5	37.4	5,173.7	37.1	50.6
Manitoba	560.6	4.0	552.7	4.0	50.4
Saskatchewan	504.9	3.6	502.1	3.6	50.1
Alberta	1,289.1	9.1	1,311.2	9.4	49.6
British Columbia	1,695.9	12.0	1,681.0	12.1	50.2
Yukon	13.9	0.1	15.2	0.1	47.9
Northwest Territories	29.2	0.2	32.0	0.2	47.7
Total	14,179.5	100.0	13,938.1	100.0	50.4

¹Adjusted for net census undercoverage.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 91-537.

Table 1.5
Age distribution of females, by province and territory, 1991¹

	Percentage of females aged					Total	
	Under 15	15-24	25-44	45-64	65 and over		
	%						000s
Newfoundland	21.9	17.7	32.7	17.1	10.6	100.0	289.0
Prince Edward Island	21.9	14.5	30.9	18.0	14.8	100.0	66.1
Nova Scotia	19.6	14.6	32.8	18.7	14.2	100.0	464.7
New Brunswick	20.0	15.3	32.8	18.2	13.6	100.0	377.3
Quebec	19.1	13.2	34.0	20.8	12.9	100.0	3,591.4
Ontario	19.5	14.1	33.8	19.3	13.2	100.0	5,297.5
Manitoba	21.2	14.3	31.2	18.1	15.2	100.0	560.6
Saskatchewan	23.2	13.9	29.6	17.7	15.6	100.0	504.9
Alberta	23.1	14.7	35.2	16.8	10.2	100.0	1,289.1
British Columbia	19.4	13.4	33.6	19.3	14.3	100.0	1,695.9
Yukon	24.4	15.1	42.4	14.4	3.6	100.0	13.9
Northwest Territories	33.6	18.8	34.6	10.6	2.7	100.0	29.2
Total	20.0	14.0	33.6	19.2	13.1	100.0	14,179.5

¹Adjusted for net census undercoverage.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 91-537.

Table 1.6
Urban/rural distribution of women, 1991¹

	Women		Women as a % of the population in area
	000s	%	
Urban areas			
Within census metropolitan areas ²	7,937.9	57.4	51.3
Within census agglomerations ³	1,812.9	13.1	51.5
Other urban areas ⁴	981.1	7.1	51.3
Total urban	10,731.9	77.5	51.3
Rural			
Farm	375.3	2.7	46.4
Non-farm	2,735.2	19.8	49.0
Total rural	3,110.4	22.4	48.7
Total	13,842.3	100.0	50.7

¹Data are not adjusted for net census undercoverage and are, therefore, not directly comparable with other data in this chapter.

²Includes urban areas with population of 100,000 and over.

³Includes urban areas with population between 10,000 and 99,999.

⁴Includes urban areas with population under 10,000.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-339.

FAMILY STATUS

by Marcia Almey

Most women live with their families

The vast majority of women in Canada live with members of their family.¹ In 1991, 80% of women aged 15 and over were either a spouse or common-law partner, lone parent, or never-married daughter still living at home with their family. The share of women living with their family, though, has fallen somewhat in the last two decades, dropping from 84% in 1971. (Table 2.1)

While the large majority of women live with their family, there have been changes in the structure of family living. For example, the proportion of women who are spouses in a husband-wife family has declined, while the shares who are living in a common-law relationship or as lone parents have risen. At the same time, there has been a dramatic decline in the birth rate among Canadian women.

Fewer women married

The proportion of women who are spouses in a husband-wife family has declined in the last decade, although married women still make up the majority of women. In 1991, 53% of women aged 15 and over were spouses in a husband-wife family. This was down, however, from 56% in 1981. (Table 2.1)

Women between the ages of 25 and 64 are considerably more likely than either younger women or seniors to be married. Indeed, the majority of women aged 25-44 (63%) and 45-64 (70%) were spouses in a husband-wife family in 1991, whereas only 42% of women aged 65 and over and just 10% of 15-24-year-olds were living with a spouse. (Table 2.2)

Marriage rate down

The decrease in the proportion of women who are spouses in a husband-wife family reflects, in part, a substantial drop in the annual marriage rate in the last two decades. In 1992, there were only 5.8 marriages for every 1,000 people in Canada, down from 9.2 in 1972. (Table 2.3)

In fact, the number of marriages in 1992 was the lowest total since the late 1960s. There were 164,600 marriages in Canada in 1992, down 4% from 1991 and 18% below the peak figure recorded in 1972, when there were slightly over 200,000 marriages.

Women in Canada are also marrying at older ages than they did in the past. In 1992, the average age at first marriage for brides was 26.5 years, up from 22.1 years in

1971. Nonetheless, women still tend to marry at younger ages than men. In 1992, the average age for first-time brides was 26.5 years, while for grooms it was 28.7 years. It is also interesting to note that the two-year difference between the ages at which women and men marry for the first time has remained almost unchanged since the early 1970s.

Remarriages

While the overall marriage rate has fallen, more Canadian women are marrying for a second or subsequent time. Around 23% of all women who got married in 1992 had been married before, up from 18% in 1980 and less than 10% in the 1960s. The share of women marrying for a second or subsequent time was about the same as that for men in 1992. (Table 2.4)

Women who are divorced make up the vast majority of women who remarry. In fact, divorced women represented almost nine out of 10 women who remarried in 1992, while the rest were widows. This is a significant shift from the 1960s, when a greater share of remarriages involved widowed than divorced women.

Divorce rates higher

In contrast to the marriage rate, the incidence of divorce has increased dramatically since the late 1960s, largely as a result of revisions in the legislation in 1968 and again in 1985 which eased restrictions on divorce. In 1992, there were 278 divorces for every 100,000 people in Canada, compared with 55 per 100,000 population in 1968. (Table 2.5)

Most of this increase, however, occurred in the 1970s. Between 1968 and 1982, for example, the number of divorces per 100,000 people rose from 55 to 280.

There was also a substantial rise in the divorce rate following passage of the revised legislation in 1985. Indeed, the number of divorces per 100,000 population climbed to 362 in 1987. Most of this latter increase, though, appears to have been accounted for by people who put off divorcing in 1984 or 1985 in anticipation of the new legislation. In fact, in 1989, the divorce rate dropped back to the 1986 level, at just under 300 divorces per 100,000 population, and then fell a further 6% to 278 in 1992, the same figure as in 1981.

More living common law

While the share of women who are spouses in a husband-wife family has declined in the last decade, the proportion living in a common-law relationship has risen. In 1991, 7% of women aged 15 and over were in a common-law relationship, up from 4% in 1981. (Table 2.1)

As a result, the share of all women living with a partner has changed only marginally in the last decade. In 1991, 59% of all women were either married or living common law, versus 60% in 1981.

Women under age 45 are more likely than those aged 45 or over to live common law. In 1991, 10% of women aged 25-44 and 9% of those aged 15-24 lived in a common-law union, compared with 3% of women aged 45-64 and just 1% of female seniors. (Table 2.2)

More female lone parents²

The proportion of women who are lone parents has also risen in the last several decades. In 1991, 7% of women aged 15 and over were lone parents, up from 5% in 1971. (Table 2.1)

In fact, there were 786,000 female-headed lone-parent families in Canada in 1991, representing 16% of all families with children. The latter figure was up from 10% in 1971. (Table 2.6)

As well, women continue to make up the large majority of lone parents. In 1991, over 80% of all one-parent families were headed by women, a figure that has remained relatively constant since the 1960s.

Women between the ages of 25 and 64 are the most likely to be lone parents. In 1991, 9% of women aged 25-44 and 8% of those aged 45-64 were parenting on their own, compared with 6% of senior women and 3% of those aged 15-24. (Table 2.2)

The overall growth in the number of women parenting on their own reflects, in part, the increase in the divorce rate discussed above. Indeed, in 1991, 57% of all female lone parents were either separated or divorced. (Table 2.7)

The large number of divorced or separated female lone parents may be attributed to the tendency for mothers to get custody of the children when parental unions end. Mothers, for example, were awarded custody of the children in 74% of all custody decisions settled in court in 1991,³ whereas custody was awarded to the father in only 12% of these cases. (Table 2.8)

In recent years, though, there has been a noticeable trend toward joint-custody awards. In 1991, 14% of court-determined divorce cases resulted in a joint custody settlement, up from just 1% in 1986.

Single lone-parent mothers

While the largest share of female lone parents are either divorced or separated, a growing proportion are single, never-married women raising children on their own. In 1991, 20% of female lone parents were single, up from 11% in 1981. It should be noted, nonetheless, that some of these women may have been living common law at the time their children were born; these relationships, however, have since ended. (Table 2.7)

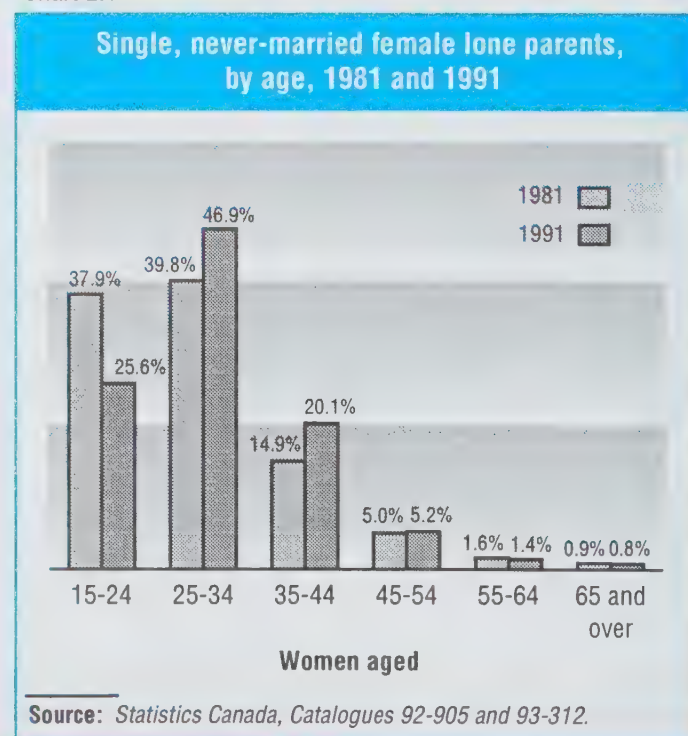
The largest proportion of never-married female lone parents are aged 25-34. In fact, in 1991, almost half (47%) of single lone-parent mothers were aged 25-34. At the same time, 26% were aged 15-24 and 20% were aged 35-44. (Chart 2.1)

As well, the share of never-married female lone parents accounted for by those aged 25-34 increased in the last decade, rising from 40% in 1981 to 47% in 1991. In contrast, women aged 15-24 as a proportion of never-married lone mothers declined from 38% to 26% in the same period.

Women not living with their family

There has been an increase in the proportion of women not living with their family. In 1991, 20% of women aged 15 and over were either living alone, with other relatives, or with an unrelated person. This was up from 16% in 1971. (Table 2.1)

Chart 2.1



Most women who do not live with their family live on their own. In 1991, 12% of women aged 15 and over lived alone, while 4% lived with unrelated people and another 4% lived with members of their extended family.

The number of women living alone has risen substantially in the last two decades. In 1991, 1.3 million Canadian women, 12% of the total, lived alone. This was almost double the figure in 1971, when 7% of Canadian women lived on their own. In contrast, the shares of women who live with unrelated people or in an extended family have declined slightly since 1971.

Senior women are far more likely than their younger counterparts not to live with their family. In 1991, 51% of women aged 65 and over did not live with their family. This compared with 17% of women aged 45-64, 15% of those aged 15-24, and 13% of those aged 25-44. (Table 2.2)

Senior women are also far more likely than their male contemporaries not to live with their family. In 1991, 51% of women aged 65 and over did not live with their family, compared with 22% of men in this age group. That so many senior women do not live with their family is largely a result of the fact that most of these women outlive their husbands.

Senior women are also more likely than their younger counterparts to live alone. In 1991, 38% of women aged 65 and older lived on their own, compared with 12% of women aged 45-64, 7% of women aged 25-44, and only 3% of women aged 15-24. (Table 2.2)

Senior women are also more than twice as likely than their male contemporaries to live alone. In 1991, 38% of women aged 65 and over lived alone, versus 15% of men in this age group.

As well, a substantial proportion of senior women live with members of their extended family. In 1991, 11% of women aged 65 and over lived with other relatives, compared with 4% of senior men, 3% of women aged 15-24 and 45-64, and 2% of women aged 25-44.

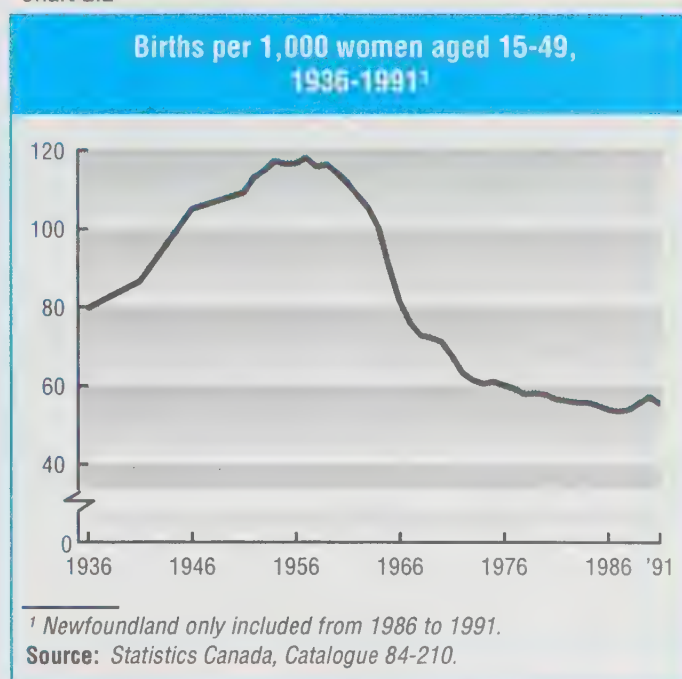
Low birth rates

One of the most dramatic trends in family life has been the decline in the birth rate among Canadian women. In 1991, there were 56 births for every 1,000 woman aged 15-49, down from 116 in 1959. (Chart 2.2)

Most of the decline in the birth rate, though, occurred in the early 1960s. In fact, the number of children born per 1,000 woman aged 15-49 in 1991 (56) was only slightly below the figure in the mid-1970s, when there were around 60 births for every 1,000 women aged 15-49.

The long-term decline in the birth rate, however, reversed slightly in recent years. Between 1987 and 1990, for

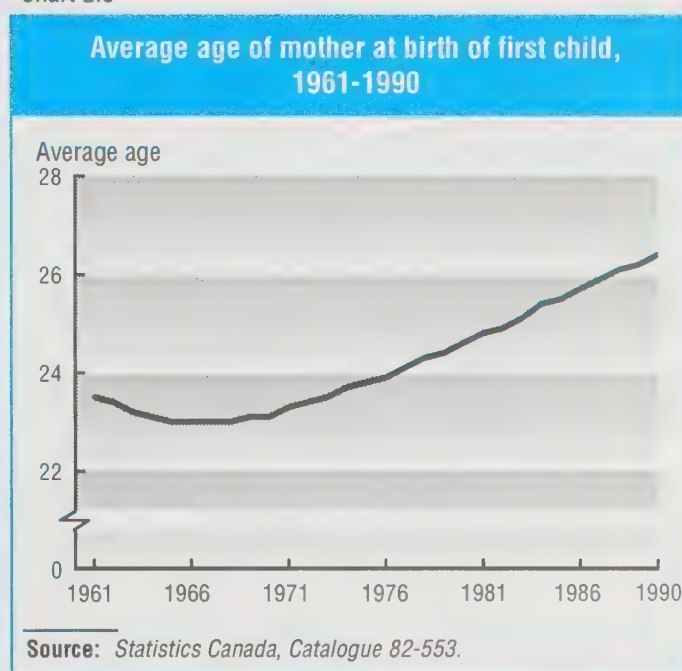
Chart 2.2



example, the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-49 rose from 54 to 57, but then dropped back to 56 in 1991.

As well, many women are waiting longer to have their children than they did in the past. For example, the average age of women at the birth of their first child was over 26 years in 1990, up from 23 years in the late 1960s. (Chart 2.3)

Chart 2.3



Most children born to women aged 25-29

Women aged 25-29 have higher birth rates than women in other age groups. In 1991, there were 128 children born for every 1,000 women aged 25-29, compared with 88 for women aged 30-34 and 83 for those aged 20-24. In contrast, the fertility rate was less than 30 children per 1,000 women for both teenagers and women aged 35-39. (Table 2.9)

Birth rates among women in their 30s, though, have risen sharply in the last decade. In 1991, there were 29 births per 1,000 women aged 35-39, up from 19 in 1981. The number of births per 1,000 women aged 30-34 also rose in the same period, climbing from 68 to 88. There were also small increases in the birth rates among teenaged women and those aged 25-29 in these years.

In contrast, the birth rate among women aged 20-24 declined in the last decade, falling from 97 for every 1,000 women in this age range in 1981 to 83 in 1991. As a result of these trends, the birth rate among women aged 30-34 is now higher than that for women aged 20-24, whereas, in 1981, the opposite was true.

Fewer children per family

Partly as a result of the decline in birth rates, Canadian families now have fewer children living at home than they did in the past. In 1991, there were an average of 1.2 children living at home per family, down from 1.4 in 1981 and 1.8 in 1971. (Table 2.10)

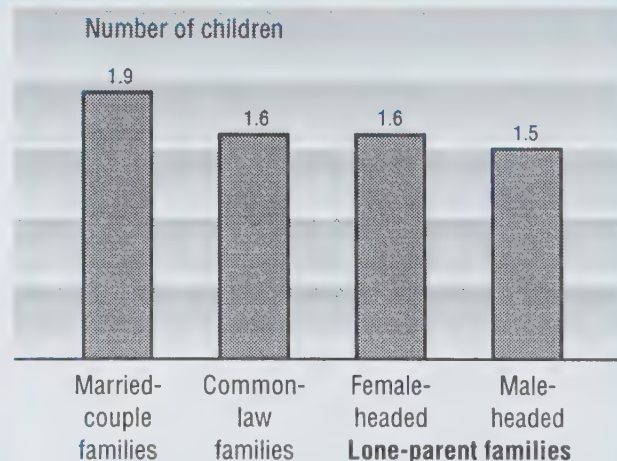
Married-couple families generally have more children living at home than either common-law couples or lone-parent families headed by women. In 1991, married-couple families had an average of 1.9 children living at home, compared with 1.6 in both common-law families and female-headed lone-parent households. (Chart 2.4)

There has also been an increase in the share of families without children living at home. These families, which include both couples which have never had children, as well as empty-nesters whose children have left home, made up 35% of all families in 1991, up from 27% in 1971. (Table 2.10)

The majority of families without children are empty-nesters. In 1991, 59% of all two-spouse families without children

Chart 2.4

Average number of children living at home per family, by family type, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-312.

living at home were empty-nesters, while 41% had never had children. (Table 2.11)

Married-couple families without children at home are particularly likely to be empty-nesters. In 1991, 67% of married couples without children at home were empty-nesters, compared with only 24% of common-law couples without children at home.

¹ In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

² For more information on lone-parent families see **Lone-parent Families in Canada**, Statistics Canada Catalogue 89-522E.

³ Note that these figures only include cases decided by the courts and do not include those in which custody arrangements were decided outside of court.

Marcia Almey is an analyst with the Target Groups Project.

Table 2.1
Family status¹ of women and men aged 15 and over, 1971-1991

	1971		1981		1991	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%					
Wife/husband	61.7	63.1	56.2	58.4	52.6	55.2
Common-law partner ²	--	--	3.8	4.0	6.7	7.1
Lone parent	5.1	1.4	6.3	1.4	7.3	1.6
Child living at home	17.1	22.4	15.7	20.9	13.2	18.0
Not living with own family						
Living alone	6.6	4.4	10.6	7.7	12.3	9.4
Living with unrelated people	4.2	4.9	3.2	4.3	3.9	5.6
Living with other relations	5.3	3.8	4.3	3.4	3.9	3.1
Total not living with own family	16.1	13.0	18.0	15.4	20.1	18.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number (000s)	7,413.4	7,252.1	9,352.2	9,000.4	10,782.6	10,284.8

¹In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

²Prior to 1981, common-law families were included with married-couple families.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 2.2
Family status¹ of women and men, by age, 1991

	Persons aged							
	15-24		25-44		45-64		65 and over	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
Wife/husband	10.2	4.2	63.2	58.4	70.4	77.3	42.4	74.3
Common-law partner	8.8	5.1	9.9	10.7	3.4	4.9	0.8	1.6
Lone parent	2.7	0.1	9.3	1.7	8.1	2.6	5.6	1.8
Child living at home	63.7	74.6	4.7	8.9	0.8	1.1	0.1	0.1
Not living with own family								
Living alone	3.4	3.4	6.8	10.2	12.0	9.4	38.1	15.2
Living with unrelated people	7.6	8.3	4.1	6.7	2.2	3.0	2.3	2.9
Living with other relations	3.4	4.1	2.0	3.2	3.1	1.9	10.8	4.1
Total not living with own family	14.5	16.0	12.9	20.3	17.3	14.2	51.2	22.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	1,860.4	1,896.3	4,604.5	4,514.3	2,667.5	2,625.1	1,650.1	1,249.1

¹In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 93-311 and 93-312, and Census of Canada.

Table 2.3
Marriages and average age at first marriage, 1971-1992

	Number of marriages	Marriages per 1,000 population	Average age at first marriage	
			Women	Men
1971	191,324	8.9	22.1	24.4
1972	200,470	9.2	21.7	24.2
1973	199,064	9.0	21.8	24.2
1974	198,824	8.9	21.9	24.2
1975	197,585	8.7	22.0	24.4
1976	193,343	8.4	22.2	24.5
1977	187,344	8.0	22.3	24.6
1978	185,523	7.9	22.5	24.7
1979	187,811	7.9	22.6	24.9
1980	191,069	8.0	22.8	25.0
1981	190,082	7.8	23.0	25.2
1982	188,360	7.6	23.2	25.4
1983	184,675	7.4	23.5	25.7
1984	185,597	7.4	23.8	26.0
1985	184,096	7.3	24.1	26.2
1986	175,518	6.9	24.3	26.5
1987	182,151	7.1	24.7	26.9
1988	187,728	7.2	25.0	27.1
1989	190,640	7.3	25.2	27.3
1990	187,737	7.1	25.5	27.4
1991	172,251	6.4	25.7	27.7
1992	164,573	5.8	26.5	28.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 84-212, and Health Statistics Division.

Table 2.4
Marital status of brides and bridegrooms, 1961-1992

	Marital status							
	Brides				Bridegrooms			
	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total	Single	Widowed	Divorced	Total
	%							
1961	91.1	5.1	3.8	100.0	91.5	4.5	4.0	100.0
1962	91.2	4.9	3.9	100.0	91.6	4.4	4.0	100.0
1963	90.9	5.0	4.1	100.0	91.4	4.4	4.2	100.0
1964	91.1	4.8	4.1	100.0	91.4	4.2	4.4	100.0
1965	91.1	4.6	4.3	100.0	91.5	4.1	4.4	100.0
1966	91.3	4.4	4.3	100.0	91.4	4.0	4.6	100.0
1967	91.3	4.4	4.3	100.0	91.6	3.8	4.6	100.0
1968	91.3	4.3	4.4	100.0	91.6	3.7	4.7	100.0
1969	89.3	4.3	6.4	100.0	89.4	3.7	6.9	100.0
1970	88.9	4.2	6.9	100.0	88.8	3.6	7.6	100.0
1971	88.4	4.1	7.5	100.0	88.3	3.6	8.1	100.0
1972	88.4	3.9	7.7	100.0	88.1	3.5	8.4	100.0
1973	87.5	3.9	8.6	100.0	87.1	3.4	9.5	100.0
1974	86.6	3.8	9.6	100.0	85.8	3.5	10.7	100.0
1975	85.4	3.8	10.8	100.0	84.5	3.3	12.1	100.0
1976	84.3	3.8	11.9	100.0	83.3	3.3	13.4	100.0
1977	83.7	3.7	12.6	100.0	82.7	3.3	14.0	100.0
1978	83.0	3.5	13.5	100.0	81.9	3.2	14.9	100.0
1979	83.5	3.4	14.1	100.0	81.3	3.1	15.6	100.0
1980	82.1	3.2	14.7	100.0	80.7	3.1	16.2	100.0
1981	81.3	3.2	15.5	100.0	80.0	3.0	17.0	100.0
1982	81.2	2.9	15.9	100.0	79.4	2.9	17.7	100.0
1983	80.1	2.9	17.0	100.0	78.5	2.8	18.7	100.0
1984	79.7	3.2	17.1	100.0	78.0	3.0	19.0	100.0
1985	79.7	2.9	17.4	100.0	78.2	2.9	18.9	100.0
1986	78.9	2.9	18.2	100.0	78.4	2.9	18.7	100.0
1987	76.5	3.4	20.1	100.0	76.0	3.1	20.9	100.0
1988	76.7	3.0	20.3	100.0	76.1	2.9	21.0	100.0
1989	76.7	3.1	20.2	100.0	76.4	2.9	20.7	100.0
1990	77.4	2.9	19.7	100.0	76.5	2.7	20.8	100.0
1991	77.6	2.9	19.5	100.0	76.6	2.8	20.6	100.0
1992	77.1	3.0	19.9	100.0	76.3	2.9	20.9	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 84-212.

Table 2.5
Number of divorces and divorce rate, 1968-1992

Year	Number of divorces	Divorces per 100,000 population	Year	Number of divorces	Divorces per 100,000 population
1968	11,343	54.8	1980	62,019	259.1
1969	26,093	124.2	1981	67,671	278.0
			1982	70,430	279.5
1970	29,775	139.8	1983	68,565	269.3
1971	29,685	137.6	1984	65,170	253.6
1972	32,389	148.4	1985	61,976	238.9
1973	36,704	166.1	1986	78,304	298.8
1974	45,019	200.6	1987	96,200	362.3
1975	50,611	222.0	1988	83,507	310.5
1976	54,207	235.8	1989	80,998	295.8
1977	55,370	237.7			
1978	57,155	243.4	1990	78,463	282.3
1979	59,474	251.3	1991	77,020	273.9
			1992	79,034	277.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 82-003S17 and 84-213, and Health Statistics Division.

Table 2.6
Lone-parent families, 1961-1991

	Female-headed		Male-headed		Women as a % of lone parents
	000s	As a % of all families with children	000s	As a % of all families with children	
1961	272.2	9.0	75.2	2.5	78.4
1966	300.4	9.0	71.5	2.2	80.8
1971	378.1	10.4	100.7	2.8	79.0
1976	464.3	11.6	95.0	2.4	83.0
1981	589.8	13.7	124.2	2.9	82.6
1986	701.9	15.5	151.7	3.3	82.2
1991	786.4	16.4	168.2	3.5	82.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-312, and Census of Canada.

Table 2.7
Marital status of lone parents, 1981 and 1991

	Female lone parents		Male lone parents	
	1981	1991	1981	1991
	%			
Single never-married ¹	11.0	19.5	4.3	8.3
Separated	29.3	24.6	40.4	37.6
Divorced	26.4	32.5	25.7	33.6
Widowed	33.3	23.4	29.5	20.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of lone parents (000s)	589.8	786.4	124.2	168.2

¹Includes those who lived in a now-terminated common-law relationship at the time their children were born.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-905 and 93-312.

Table 2.8
Custody of children involved in divorces,¹ 1978-1991

	Custody given to						Total divorces involving custody decisions
	Mother	Father	Joint	Other person/agency	No award/Unknown	Total	
	%						
1978	78.7	15.6	--	0.3	5.4	100.0	59,436
1979	78.8	15.8	--	0.2	5.3	100.0	57,856
1980	78.2	16.0	--	0.2	5.5	100.0	59,600
1981	77.9	15.8	--	0.3	6.0	100.0	62,434
1982	77.1	15.6	--	0.2	6.9	100.0	65,441
1983	74.9	15.7	--	0.2	9.1	100.0	64,221
1984	74.3	15.5	--	0.2	10.0	100.0	60,063
1985	72.8	15.2	--	0.3	11.8	100.0	56,336
1986	71.9	15.3	1.2	0.4	11.2	100.0	60,450
1987	74.7	13.6	7.4	0.2	4.0	100.0	53,699
1988	75.8	12.9	10.1	0.3	1.0	100.0	50,249
1989	74.1	12.8	12.4	0.2	0.4	100.0	50,333
1990	73.2	12.3	14.1	0.2	0.2	100.0	48,525
1991	73.6	11.8	14.3	0.2	0.1	100.0	49,868

¹Refers only to cases decided in court.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 82-003S16, 82-003S17, 84-205 and 84-213.

Table 2.9
Age-specific birth rates, 1961-1991¹

	Births per 1,000 women aged						
	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49
1961	58.2	233.6	219.2	144.9	81.1	28.5	2.4
1962	55.0	231.6	214.6	143.1	77.1	27.6	2.1
1963	53.1	226.0	210.6	140.3	75.8	25.9	2.1
1964	50.2	212.8	203.1	134.9	72.0	25.1	2.1
1965	49.3	188.6	181.9	119.4	65.9	22.0	2.0
1966	48.2	169.1	163.5	103.3	57.5	19.1	1.7
1967	45.2	161.4	152.6	91.8	50.9	15.9	1.5
1968	43.0	152.6	148.7	86.3	44.8	13.8	1.4
1969	42.2	147.7	149.8	85.0	42.6	12.5	1.1
1970	42.8	143.3	147.2	81.8	39.0	11.3	0.9
1971	40.1	134.4	142.0	77.3	33.6	9.4	0.6
1972	38.5	119.8	137.1	72.1	28.9	7.8	0.6
1973	37.2	117.7	131.6	67.1	25.7	6.4	0.4
1974	35.3	113.1	131.1	66.6	23.0	5.5	0.4
1975	35.3	112.7	131.2	64.4	21.6	4.8	0.4
1976	33.4	110.3	129.9	65.6	21.1	4.3	0.3
1977	32.0	108.0	129.8	67.1	20.5	3.6	0.3
1978	29.7	103.1	128.1	67.1	19.5	3.6	0.3
1979	27.9	101.8	130.8	69.1	19.5	3.4	0.2
1980	27.6	100.1	129.4	69.3	19.4	3.1	0.2
1981	26.4	96.7	126.9	68.0	19.4	3.2	0.2
1982	26.5	95.4	124.7	68.6	20.2	3.1	0.2
1983	24.9	92.4	124.6	70.5	20.5	3.0	0.2
1984	24.4	88.8	126.0	73.3	21.5	3.0	0.1
1985	23.7	85.3	125.3	74.6	21.8	3.0	0.1
1986	24.1	82.8	122.8	74.9	22.4	3.2	0.1
1987	23.9	81.7	122.8	75.8	23.6	3.4	0.1
1988	24.1	82.0	124.7	78.2	25.2	3.7	0.1
1989	25.8	84.9	128.5	83.2	26.8	3.8	0.1
1990	26.9	85.4	140.2	87.5	28.6	3.9	0.1
1991	27.3	82.6	128.4	88.0	29.2	4.0	0.2

¹Newfoundland included only in 1986-1991.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 84-210.

Table 2.10
Families with children and average number of children per family, 1971-1991¹

	% of families		Total	Children living at home per family
	With children living at home	Without children living at home ²		
1971	73.2	26.8	100.0	1.8
1976	69.9	30.1	100.0	1.6
1981	68.2	31.8	100.0	1.4
1986	67.3	32.7	100.0	1.3
1991	64.9	35.1	100.0	1.2

¹Refers to families with children living at home.

²Includes families who have never had children as well as those whose children have left home.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-935, 93-312 and 93-823.

Table 2.11
Two-spouse families without children living at home, 1981 and 1991

	Families without children living at home			
	1981		1991	
	000s	%	000s	%
Married-couple families				
Empty-nesters	1,036.8	58.2	1,429.2	66.5
Childless	743.8	41.8	718.8	33.4
Total without children living at home	1,780.6	100.0	2,148.1	100.0
Common-law families				
Empty-nesters	54.0	23.3	99.9	23.6
Childless	178.0	76.7	323.8	76.4
Total without children living at home	232.0	100.0	423.8	100.0
All two-spouse families				
Empty-nesters	1,090.8	54.2	1,529.2	59.4
Childless	921.8	45.8	1,042.7	40.5
Total without children living at home	2,012.6	100.0	2,571.8	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-320.

HOUSING AND HOUSEHOLD FACILITIES

by Marcia Almey

Homeownership

The likelihood of women owning their homes depends, in large part, on their family status. In 1994, for example, 79% of women in two-spouse families¹ lived in an owner-occupied home, whereas only 48% of unattached female seniors, 33% of unattached women aged 15-64, and 31% of female lone-parent families owned their homes. (Table 3.1)

Female lone parents are also considerably less likely than male lone parents to own their homes. In 1994, 31% of female lone parents were homeowners, compared with 58% of families headed by male lone parents. Unattached women aged 65 and over were also less likely than their male counterparts to own their homes, 48% versus 56%, while among unattached individuals under age 65, women were about as likely as men to be homeowners.

Mortgage-free homeownership

While relatively few unattached women own their homes, a large proportion of those who are homeowners have paid off their mortgages. This is especially true of unattached senior women. In 1994, 89% of unattached female homeowners aged 65 and over owned their homes outright, about the same figure as for their male counterparts (90%). (Chart 3.1)

At the same time, about half of unattached female homeowners under age 65 were mortgage-free. In fact, non-elderly unattached female homeowners were more likely than their male counterparts to own their homes outright in 1994: 50% versus 45%.

In contrast, very few female lone-parent homeowners have paid off their mortgages. Among families which owned their homes in 1994, just 32% of female lone-parent families were mortgage-free, compared with 38% of male lone-parent families and 47% of two-spouse families.

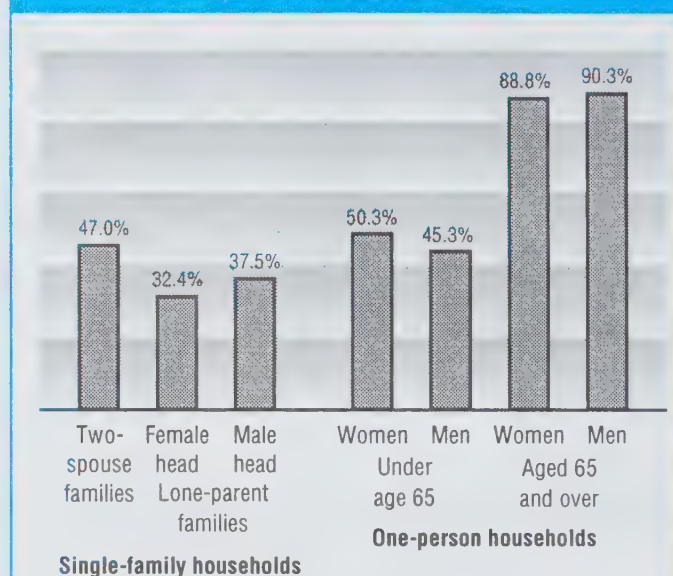
Need for repairs

As with home ownership, the likelihood of women living in homes requiring repairs varies depending on their family status. In 1994, 35% of the homes of lone-parent mothers required either major or minor repairs, about the same figure as for lone-parent families headed by men (34%), but substantially higher than that for two-spouse families (25%). (Table 3.2)

At the same time, 18% of unattached senior women and 27% of those aged 15-64 lived in homes that needed repairs.

Chart 3.1

Percentage of homeowners without mortgages, by household type, 1994



Source: Statistics Canada, Household Facilities and Equipment Survey.

In fact, the share of unattached senior women living in homes that needed repairs was lower than that for unattached men aged 65 and over: 18% versus 22%. On the other hand, the percentage of non-elderly unattached women living in homes needing repairs (27%) was about the same as that for their male counterparts (28%).

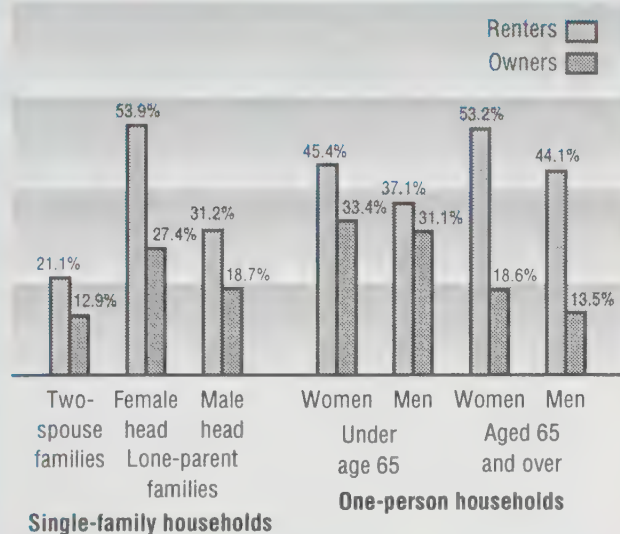
For both unattached women and female lone parents, homeowners are more likely than renters to live in homes requiring repairs. For example, in 1994, the share of unattached female homeowners aged 65 and over whose dwellings required repairs was 10 percentage points greater than that for renters: 24% versus 14%. Similarly, among female lone parents, 37% of homeowners lived in dwellings requiring repairs, compared with 33% of renters.

Housing affordability

The likelihood of women experiencing housing affordability problems² depends, to a large extent, on their family status; it also depends on whether they own or rent. Among families which rented in 1991, for example, 54% of those headed by female lone parents were considered to have housing affordability problems, compared with 31% of those headed by male lone parents and 21% of those with two spouses. (Chart 3.2)

Chart 3.2

Percentage paying 30% or more of total gross household income on shelter costs, by household type, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Similarly, among unattached women who rented in 1991, 53% of senior women and 45% of women aged 15-64 had housing affordability problems. As well, in both age groups, female renters were more likely than their male counterparts to have difficulty affording their housing.

Women who own their homes are considerably less likely than those who rent to have housing affordability problems. Still, among women who owned their homes in 1991, 33% of unattached women under age 65, 27% of female lone parents, and 19% of unattached senior women had housing affordability problems. As with renters, female homeowners in these groups were more likely than their male counterparts to have housing affordability problems.

The fact that many female lone parents and unattached women are considered to have housing affordability problems is not surprising, given that these groups of women also tend to have relatively low incomes.³

Household amenities

While almost all women in Canada have access to basic household facilities such as baths and flush toilets, there

are considerable differences in the shares of women who own other amenities depending on their family status. Women in two-spouse families, for example, are far more likely than female lone parents to own most household conveniences. In 1994, the percentages of women in two-spouse families who had an automatic washing machine, clothes dryer, dishwasher, or freezer were 15-30 percentage points higher than the figures for lone-parent mothers. Women with spouses were also more likely to have a microwave oven, video cassette recorder, gas barbecue, air conditioner, fire extinguisher, or home computer. (Table 3.3)

Among unattached women in 1994, those under age 65 were more likely than seniors to own gas barbecues, microwave ovens, video cassette recorders, compact disc players, and home computers, while those aged 65 and over were more likely to have air conditioners, freezers, and portable fire extinguishers. However, unattached women in both age groups were generally less likely than either women living with a partner or female lone parents to have most of these household amenities.

Vehicle ownership

Women in two-spouse families are more likely than women heading lone-parent families to own an automobile or other vehicle. In fact, 94% of all two-partner families, as opposed to 66% of female lone parents, owned at least one vehicle in 1994.

Unattached women are even less likely than women in families to own a car or other vehicle. In 1994, just 44% of unattached women aged 65 and over and 64% of those under age 65 owned at least one vehicle. As well, unattached women in both age ranges were considerably less likely than their male counterparts to own a vehicle.

¹ Includes those living in a common-law relationship.

² Those with housing affordability problems include families and unattached individuals that spend 30% or more of their total household income on shelter costs. It should be noted, however, that those paying 30% or more of their income on shelter may not necessarily have a housing affordability problem; some, for example, may be paying down their mortgage quickly.

³ For more information on the incomes of these families see Chapter 7.

Marcia Almey is an analyst with the Target Groups Project.

Table 3.1
Housing tenure, by household type, 1994

	Single-family households			One-person households			
	Two-spouse families	Lone-parent families		Under age 65		Aged 65 and over	
		Female head	Male head	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%						
Tenure							
Owned with mortgage	42.0	20.6	36.0	16.3	19.1	5.4	5.4
Owned without mortgage	37.2	9.9	21.7	16.5	15.8	42.9	50.5
Total owned	79.2	30.5	57.8	32.8	34.9	48.3	55.9
Rented	20.8	69.5	42.2	67.2	65.1	51.7	44.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total households (000s)	6,309	488	77	743	878	685	229

Source: Statistics Canada, Household Facilities and Equipment Survey.

Table 3.2
Percentage of homes needing repairs,¹ by household type and tenure, 1994

	Single-family households			One-person households			
	Two-spouse families	Lone-parent families		Under age 65		Aged 65 and over	
		Female head	Male head	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%						
Owners							
Major repairs needed	9.7	19.1	15.4	14.4	14.4	10.3	11.4
Minor repairs only needed	14.3	18.0	14.0	13.9	15.8	13.2	16.5
Total needing repairs	24.0	37.1	29.4	28.3	30.2	23.5	28.0
Repairs not needed ²	76.0	62.9	70.6	71.7	69.8	76.5	72.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Renters							
Major repairs needed	11.5	13.5	20.0	7.5	9.4	4.2	6.9
Minor repairs only needed	18.5	19.8	20.2	18.3	16.7	9.6	6.9
Total needing repairs	30.0	33.3	40.2	25.8	26.1	13.8	13.8
Repairs not needed ²	70.0	66.7	59.8	74.2	73.9	86.2	86.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total owners and renters needing repairs	25.2	34.5	33.9	26.7	27.5	18.4	21.7
Total households (000s)	6,309	488	77	743	878	685	229

¹Does not include remodelling, additions, conversions, or energy-saving improvements.

²Excluding regular maintenance.

Source: Statistics Canada, Household Facilities and Equipment Survey.

Table 3.3
Percentage of households with selected facilities, by household type, 1994

	Single-family households			One-person households			
	Two-spouse families	Lone-parent families		Under age 65		Aged 65 and over	
		Female head	Male head	Women	Men	Women	Men
%							
Household facilities and equipment							
Bath facilities	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.2	98.6	99.9	99.2
Flush toilet	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.1	98.8	99.9	99.5
Automatic washing machine	89.2	69.9	78.2	52.3	46.3	52.4	48.6
Clothes dryer	87.7	69.6	77.8	49.5	43.8	50.8	47.0
Dishwasher	58.3	29.2	50.6	26.4	21.9	22.9	19.5
Refrigerator	99.8	99.2	100.0	98.0	98.1	99.6	99.6
Freezer	72.2	43.7	51.1	29.8	23.8	44.8	44.4
Microwave oven	89.1	81.3	81.0	69.9	61.6	61.3	57.6
Gas barbecue	67.3	39.3	52.0	23.4	31.0	14.2	18.4
Air conditioner	29.8	19.4	17.4	20.2	21.8	27.8	20.2
Smoke detector	95.2	89.0	92.4	90.0	86.9	91.0	81.5
Fire extinguisher	60.5	35.5	54.8	31.5	37.0	32.1	41.4
Telephone	99.7	98.2	98.3	98.3	96.1	99.4	96.8
Radio	99.1	98.7	99.0	99.2	98.2	97.7	96.8
Colour television	99.2	98.9	98.5	95.3	94.5	97.8	97.3
Video cassette recorder	88.4	82.2	85.5	63.1	66.9	37.3	41.8
Compact disc player	46.5	37.5	48.2	30.4	36.7	10.5	10.2
Home computer	30.8	17.6	31.8	14.1	19.8	1.3	3.3
Owned vehicles							
One	38.2	56.8	53.8	58.6	56.5	39.1	56.3
Two or more	56.0	9.6	29.6	5.1	14.8	4.8	10.6
Total with vehicle	94.2	66.4	83.4	63.7	71.3	43.9	66.9
Total households (000s)	6,309	488	77	743	878	685	229

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-218, and Household Facilities and Equipment Survey.

HEALTH

by Josée Normand

High life expectancy

The life expectancy of women in Canada is similar to that of women in other industrialized countries.¹ A female child born in Canada in 1991 could expect to live almost 81 years, compared with 82 years for a girl born in Japan, 81 years in Switzerland and Sweden, and 80 years in Australia, the Netherlands, and the United States. (Chart 4.1)

Chart 4.1



However, women in Canada have a longer life expectancy than men. A female child born in 1991 could expect to live an average of 81 years, while a male newborn could expect to live to age 75. (Table 4.1)

The gap between female and male life expectancy closed somewhat during the last decade. Between 1981 and 1991, the life expectancy of women at birth rose 1.8 years, compared with an increase of 2.7 years for men. In contrast, in each decade during the 1921-1981 period, gains in life expectancy were greater for women than for men. Overall

between 1921 and 1981, the life expectancy at birth rose by 19 years for women, compared with 13 years for men.

The gap between the life expectancy of women and men also exists at older ages. For instance, women aged 65 in 1991 could expect to live another 20 years to just under age 85. This was four years longer than life expectancy for men aged 65, who could expect to live to age 81.

Because women tend to live longer than men, they account for a relatively large proportion of the senior population in Canada. However, it is important to note that measures of life expectancy are not necessarily indicators of the quality of life of elderly women; as discussed in other chapters of this report, women aged 65 and over are particularly likely to live alone and to have low incomes (Chapter 7), or to have disabilities (Chapter 12).

Lower death rates

Increases in women's life expectancy are a reflection of declines in the overall female death rate. In fact, between 1981 and 1992, the age-standardized² death rate for the female population fell 13%, from 606 to 526 deaths for every 100,000 women. Although the death rate for the male population fell 16% over the same period, there were still 882 deaths for every 100,000 men in 1992. (Table 4.2)

Heart diseases, cancer leading causes of death

Heart diseases and cancer are the leading causes of death among women. Indeed, these two causes accounted for over half of all female deaths in 1992. That year, a total of 25,400 women died of diseases of the heart, while 24,800 died of cancer. (Table 4.2)

Over the past decade, the age-standardized death rate for heart diseases among women has declined, whereas that for cancer has increased slightly. Between 1981 and 1992, the rate of female deaths from heart diseases fell 30%, from 203 to 141 deaths per 100,000 women. On the other hand, the rate of cancer deaths among women remained fairly stable over the same period, rising 3% from 149 to 153 deaths for every 100,000 women.

Death rates for both heart diseases and cancer, though, are considerably lower among women than men. In 1992, there were 141 deaths from heart diseases for every 100,000 women, compared with 256 for men. At the same time, the age-standardized death rate for cancer was 153

for women, versus 244 for men. As well, trends in the death rates for heart diseases and cancer have been similar for both women and men over the last decade.

Causes of death by age

The leading causes of death vary greatly among women in different age groups. Women between the ages of 30 and 79, for example, are most likely to die of cancer. In fact, in 1992, about half of all deaths of women aged 40-49 (53%), 50-59 (56%), and 60-69 (48%), as well as close to one-third of deaths of women aged 70-79 (32%), were attributable to cancer. (Table 4.3)

Heart disease, however, is the leading cause of death among women aged 80 and over. In 1992, 35% of all deaths of women aged 80 and over were the result of diseases of the heart, while 14% were caused by cancer and 13% by cerebrovascular disease. At the same time, females under age 30 were most likely to die in motor vehicle accidents.

Trends in lung and breast cancer among women

At present, about the same number of women die each year from lung and breast cancer. In 1992, 4,800 women died of lung cancer and 4,700 of breast cancer, together accounting for 11% of all female deaths. (Table 4.2)

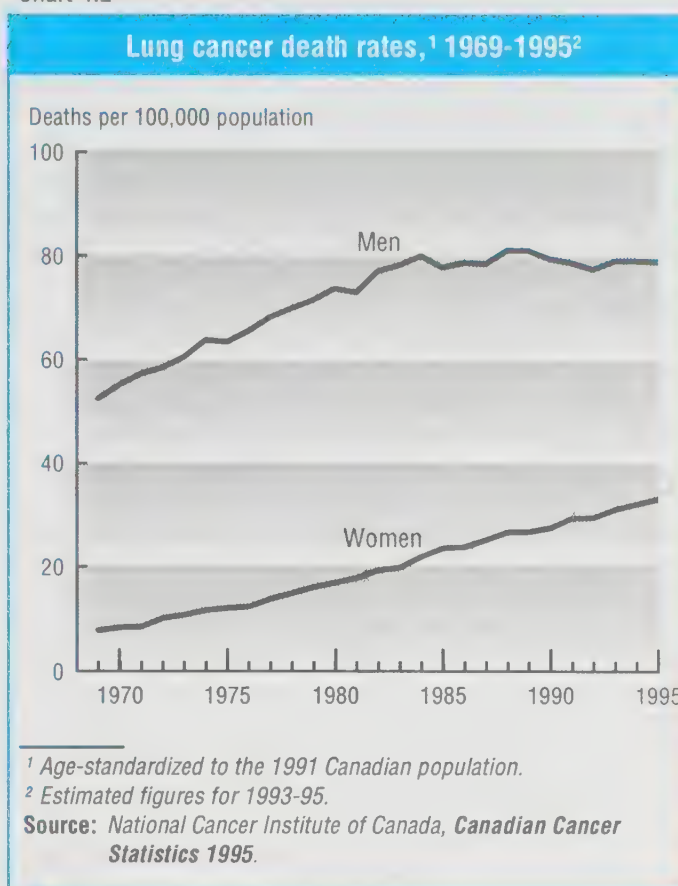
In fact, breast cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among women between the ages of 30-59. In 1992, breast cancer accounted for about 31% of all cancer deaths of women between the ages of 30-49 and 25% of those among women aged 50-59. Breast cancer was also one of the leading causes of cancer deaths among women aged 80 and over, accounting for 16% of all cancer deaths among these women in 1992. (Table 4.3)

On the other hand, lung cancer was the leading cause of cancer deaths among women aged 60-69 and 70-79 in 1992, accounting for 25% and 20%, respectively, of all female cancer deaths in these age ranges. However, breast cancer also represented a substantial share of deaths due to cancer among women aged 60-69 (20%) and 70-79 (17%). (Table 4.3)

There has been a substantial increase in the lung cancer death rate among women in the last decade. Between 1981 and 1992, the age-standardized death rate among women due to lung cancer rose 65%, whereas the breast cancer death rate was relatively stable. As a result, death rates among women are presently about the same for lung and breast cancer. This is in sharp contrast to 1981, when women were considerably more likely to die from breast cancer than from lung cancer. (Table 4.2)

In fact, the death rate due to lung cancer has risen considerably faster among women than among men in the last decade. In contrast to the dramatic increase in the age-standardized female lung cancer death rate between 1981 and 1992 (65%), the rate only increased 6% among

Chart 4.2



men. Furthermore, estimates for 1993-1995 indicate that the rate of death from lung cancer will continue to rise among women, while it will remain stable among men. (Chart 4.2)

The increase in the female death rate due to lung cancer is related to long-term increases in the prevalence of cigarette smoking, a major risk factor for lung cancer. Unlike men, women did not begin to smoke in large numbers until after World War II, and the consequences of this trend are now reflected in the increased rate of female deaths due to lung cancer.

Still more cases of breast cancer

While about the same number of women die each year from lung and breast cancer, many more women contract breast cancer. It is estimated, for example, that there will be a total of 17,700 cases of breast cancer diagnosed among women in 1995, compared with 7,300 cases of lung cancer. (Table 4.4)

Age-standardized estimates suggest that the number of new cases of breast cancer diagnosed among women in 1995 will be 19% higher than in 1981. It should also be noted that some of the growth in the number of breast cancer cases may reflect earlier diagnosis as a result of the increased number of women receiving mammograms since the mid-1980s.

Although the incidence of both breast cancer and lung cancer increases with age, women in all age groups are more likely to be diagnosed with breast cancer. Estimates for 1995 indicate that the number of new cases of breast cancer will be nine times higher than the number of new lung cancer cases for every 100,000 women aged 30-39. The incidence of breast cancer will also be six times that of lung cancer among women aged 40-49, and about double that among women in age groups over 50. (Table 4.5)

Suicide

In general, women are considerably less likely than men to commit suicide.³ In 1992, a total of 786 women were suicide victims, about 5 for every 100,000 women. In comparison, there were 21 suicides for every 100,000 men. (Table 4.2)

Women aged 45-64 are slightly more likely to commit suicide than women in other age groups. In 1992, there were 8 suicides for every 100,000 women aged 45-64, compared with 7 for those aged 20-44, and 5 for those aged 15-19 or 65 and over. Women in all age groups, though, are considerably less likely than their male counterparts to take their own lives. (Chart 4.3)

Sexually transmitted diseases⁴

Sexually transmitted diseases are another serious health problem which does not affect women and men in the same way, largely as a result of differences in the symptoms and course of these diseases. In fact, women are far more likely than men to suffer long-term health consequences as a result of sexually transmitted diseases.

For example, sexually transmitted diseases in women can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease, which can seriously affect reproductive health; these diseases may cause scarring of the fallopian tubes and an increased risk of ectopic pregnancy or tubal infertility.

Young women have the highest incidence of sexually transmitted diseases. In 1993, there were 1,400 cases of chlamydia diagnosed for every 100,000 women aged 15-19 and 1,200 for those aged 20-24. In comparison, the figure for other age groups ranged from 400 for those aged 25-29 to less than 2 among women aged 60 and over. The pattern was similar for gonorrhea, while women aged 20-24 were much more likely than women in other age groups to be diagnosed with syphilis. (Table 4.6)

Young women are also more likely than young men to be diagnosed with sexually transmitted diseases. For example, 15-19-year-old women were more than six times more likely than men in this age range to be diagnosed with chlamydia in 1993, while they were almost three times as likely to have been diagnosed with syphilis and more than twice as likely to have been diagnosed with gonorrhea.

Overall, chlamydia is the most common sexually transmitted disease among women in Canada. In 1993, there were 281 reported cases of chlamydia for every 100,000 women aged 15 and over, compared with 25 cases of gonorrhea and 3 cases of syphilis for every 100,000 women.

As well, women are considerably more likely than men to be diagnosed with chlamydial infections. On the other

Chart 4.3

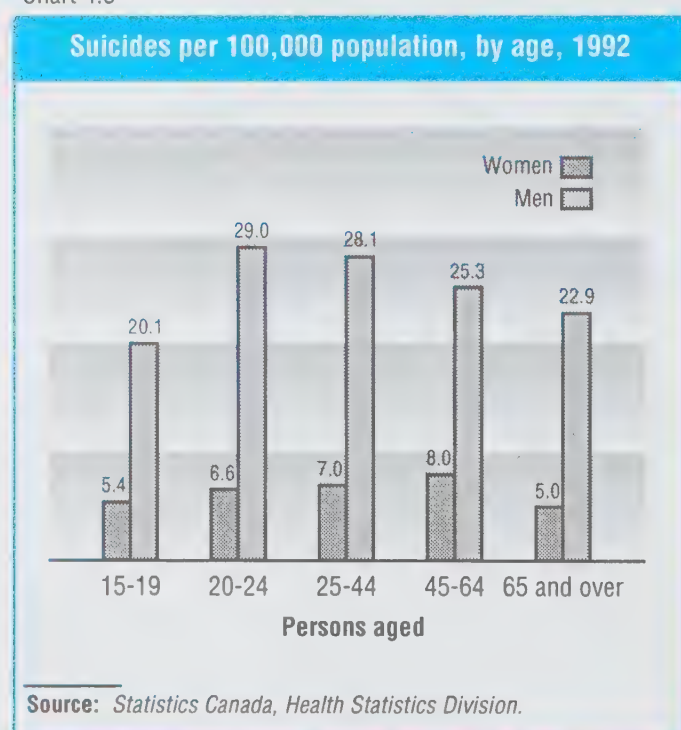
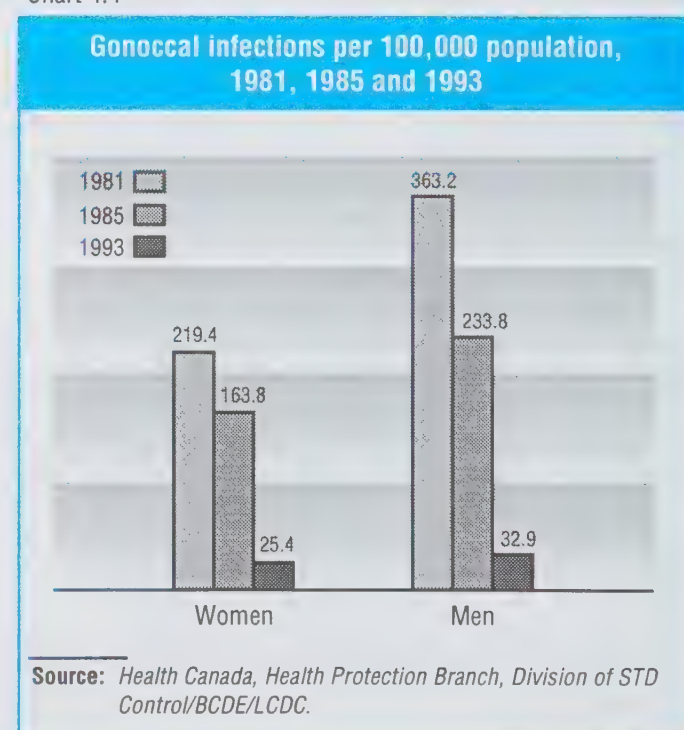


Chart 4.4



hand, women were less likely than men to be diagnosed with gonorrhea, while there was little difference in the incidence of syphilis among women and men.

The incidence of gonorrhea among women has fallen sharply over the last decade. In 1993, there were 25 cases of gonococcal infections for every 100,000 women aged 15 and over, down from 219 in 1981. The rate of gonorrhea among men declined by a similar amount over this period. (Chart 4.4)

On the other hand, the incidence of syphilis among women has risen slightly since the early 1980s, while it has decreased dramatically among men. Between 1981 and 1993, the incidence of syphilis rose from 1.4 cases to 3.1 cases for every 100,000 women aged 15 and over, compared with a decrease from 9.9 cases to 3.9 cases for every 100,000 men. (Chart 4.5)

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

The number of women in Canada who have been diagnosed with AIDS has grown steadily over the last decade. As of December 1994, 576 women aged 15 and over had been diagnosed with AIDS, representing approximately 5% of all AIDS cases reported in Canada. Adjusting for reporting delays and underreporting, though, the number of AIDS cases among women could be between 700 and 1,000.⁵ (Table 4.7)

Because the time between infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and the subsequent development of AIDS can be ten years or more, AIDS case statistics do not provide a complete picture of the

present-day problem, that is, the number of women with HIV who have the potential to develop AIDS. Although there are currently no consistent national data available on the prevalence of HIV, it is estimated that approximately 30,000 Canadians of both sexes are infected.⁶

Heterosexual transmission is the predominant risk behaviour associated with HIV transmission among women. As of December 1994, 65% of all adult women in Canada with AIDS were infected through unprotected sex with HIV-infected men. At the same time, 13% were infected with HIV through blood or blood products,⁷ and a further 14% were injection drug users who were infected by sharing contaminated needles. (Chart 4.6)

To date, women aged 30-39 make up the largest group of women who have been diagnosed with AIDS. As of December 1994, 38% of all adult women with AIDS were aged 30-39 at the time of diagnosis, while 30% were aged 20-29, 17% were aged 50 and over, and 14% were aged 40-49. Less than 1% of the total number of female AIDS cases involved female youths aged 15-19. However, because of the time lag between infection with HIV and development of AIDS, women who were in their twenties or thirties at the time of diagnosis may have become HIV infected while they were teens or young adults. (Table 4.8)

Chart 4.6

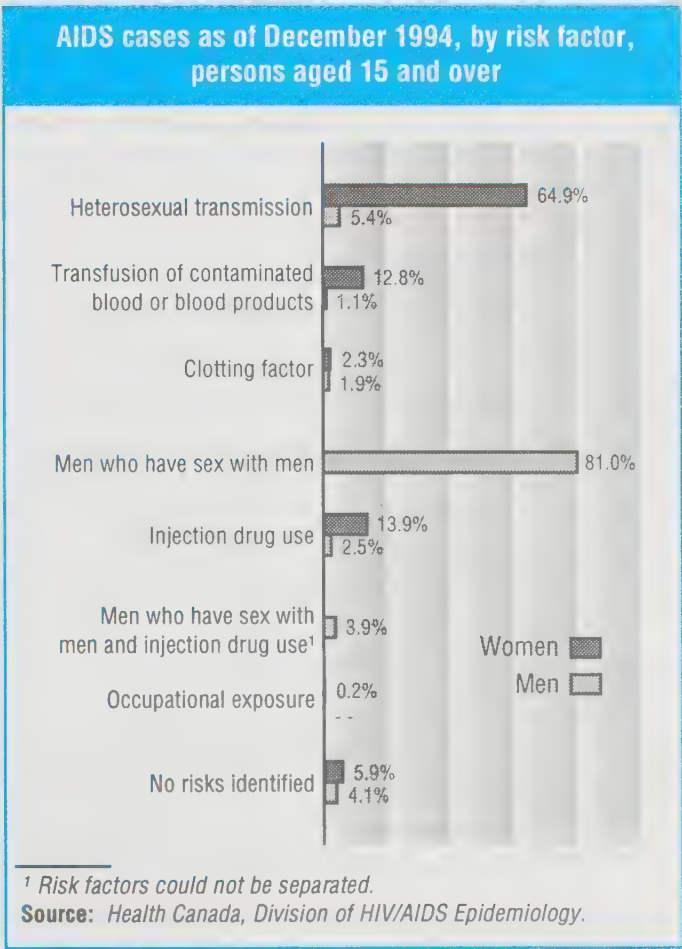
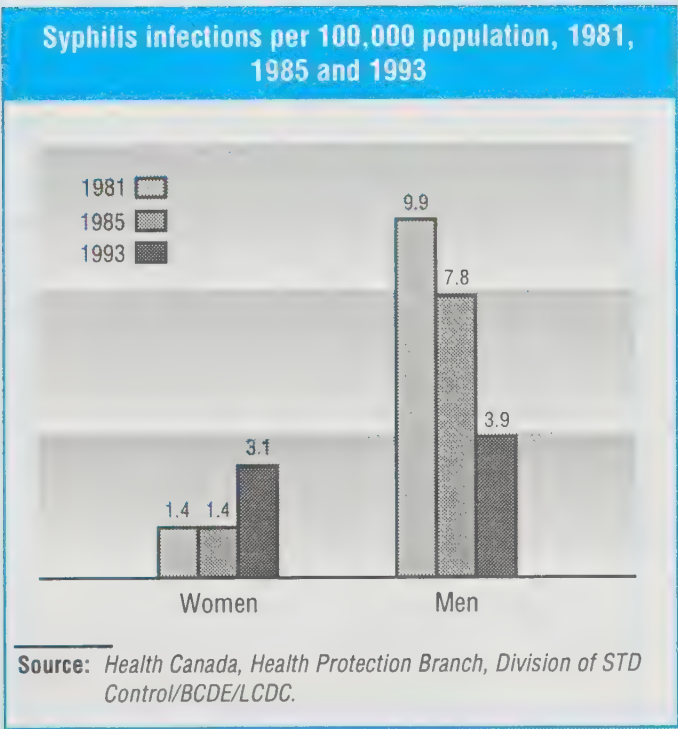


Chart 4.5



Chronic and degenerative health conditions

A large proportion of women suffer from chronic or degenerative health problems. Indeed, in 1991, 66% of women aged 15 and over reported that they had at least one health problem. This compared with 59% of men. (Table 4.9)

Arthritis/rheumatism and allergies are the health problems most frequently reported by women. In 1991, 25% of women reported they suffered from arthritis/rheumatism, while the same percentage had allergies. In addition, 16% of women reported they suffered from hypertension, 13% had hay fever, and 13% had recurring migraines.

Women are also more likely than men to report most of these chronic health conditions. For example, women were more than twice as likely as men to report recurring migraines: 13% versus 5%. Women were also considerably more likely than men to report either arthritis/rheumatism or allergies.

Not surprisingly, the proportion of women who report chronic or degenerative health problems increases with age. In 1991, 89% of women aged 75 and over and 86% of those aged 65-74 reported they had at least one health problem. This compared with 76% of women aged 45-64, 58% of those aged 25-44, and 53% of those aged 15-24. In addition, women in all age groups were more likely than their male contemporaries to report health problems.

There are substantial differences in the types of health problems reported by women at different ages. Arthritis/rheumatism, for example, was the most common health problem reported by women aged 65 and over. Senior women also reported a high incidence of hypertension. In contrast, allergies were the most common health problem reported by women between the ages of 15 and 44.

In most age groups, the proportion of women who suffer from chronic health problems is higher than that of men, this being especially true of seniors. For instance, among those aged 75 and over in 1991, 65% of women, compared with 49% of men, reported they had arthritis/rheumatism. At the same time, 42% of women aged 75 and over, compared with 27% of their male counterparts, had hypertension. Women aged 75 and over, however, were less likely than men in this age range to suffer from diabetes, stomach ulcers or hay fever.

Contact with health care professionals

Almost all women visit at least one health care professional over the course of a year. In fact, during the 12 months prior to the 1991 General Social Survey, 96% of women aged 15 and over contacted a health care professional on at least one occasion, as did 91% of men. (Table 4.10)

Women are more likely to consult general practitioners and dentists than other types of health care professionals. In

1991, 87% of women aged 15 and over visited a general practitioner and 57% went to the dentist. At the same time, about one in three women saw an optometrist (33%) or specialist (32%). As well, women were more likely than men to consult almost all types of health care providers that year.

Women also tend to visit a doctor more frequently than men. In 1991, 15% of women aged 15 and over visited a doctor on 10 or more occasions, more than double the figure for men (7%). At the same time, 34% of women aged 15 and over consulted a medical doctor between 3 and 9 times that year, compared with 26% of men. (Table 4.11)

Since the incidence of health problems generally increases with age, it is not surprising that women aged 65 and over are more likely than younger women to contact a medical doctor, and they tend to do so more frequently. For example, in 1991, 24% of senior women consulted a medical doctor at least 10 times, compared with 11% of women aged 15-24, 13% of those aged 25-44, and 14% of those aged 45-64.

Senior women, however, are much less likely than younger women to visit a dentist. In 1991, just 32% of women aged 65 and over saw a dentist, whereas the figure in other age groups ranged from 48% among 45-64-year-olds to 70% among 15-24-year-olds. (Table 4.10)

Hospitalizations

Hospitalization rates tend to be higher for the female population than for the male population.⁸ In 1992-93, there were a total of 14,901 hospital separations⁹ for every 100,000 women of all ages, compared with 10,976 for every 100,000 men. (Table 4.12)

While women are more likely than men to be hospitalized, the average length of stay in hospital in 1992-93, at around 11 days per visit, was about the same for women and men.

Differences in hospital separation rates for women and men reflect, in large part, the large number of female hospitalizations for reasons related to childbirth. Indeed, in 1992-93, childbirth, complications of pregnancy, and puerperium¹⁰ were the leading causes of hospitalization among women. That year, there were a total of 524,558 hospital separations of women for these reasons, more than twice the number for the next highest cause. (Chart 4.7)

Hospitalization of seniors

Women in the very oldest age range are more likely than other women to be hospitalized. In 1992-93, there were 40,605 hospital separations for every 100,000 women aged 75 and over, at least twice the rates for women in age groups under 65, and far greater than the hospital separation

rate of women aged 65-74 (23,203). Senior women, though, were less likely to be hospitalized than their male counterparts. (Table 4.12)

Women aged 75 and over also tend to stay in hospital for considerably longer periods than either younger women or elderly men. In 1992-93, women aged 75 and over stayed an average of 29 days per hospital visit, compared with 16 days for those aged 65-74, 11 days for those aged 45-64, 7 days for those aged 35-44, and around 5 days for those under aged 35. In comparison, men aged 75 and over stayed in hospital an average of 21 days per visit.

Hospitalization for reasons of mental health

Overall, women are more likely than men to be hospitalized because of mental disorders. In 1992-93, there were 758 separations for mental disorders in psychiatric and general hospitals for every 100,000 women of all ages, compared with 697 for men. (Table 4.13)

As well, women tend to be hospitalized for different mental illnesses than men. In 1992-93, affective psychoses, such as manic-depressive psychosis, were the most frequent type of mental disorder for which women were hospitalized, whereas men were hospitalized most often for schizophrenic psychoses. (Chart 4.8)

Women in the very oldest age group are more likely than their younger counterparts to be hospitalized for mental illness. In 1992-93, there were 1,703 hospital separations for mental disorders for every 100,000 women aged 75 and over, almost twice the figure for the age group with the next highest rate. (Table 4.13)

The high rate of hospitalization for mental disorders among elderly women is largely due to diagnoses of senile and presenile conditions. In 1992-93, about half (49%) all hospital separations of women aged 75 and over for mental disorders were related to senile and presenile organic psychotic conditions such as dementia.¹¹

Chart 4.7

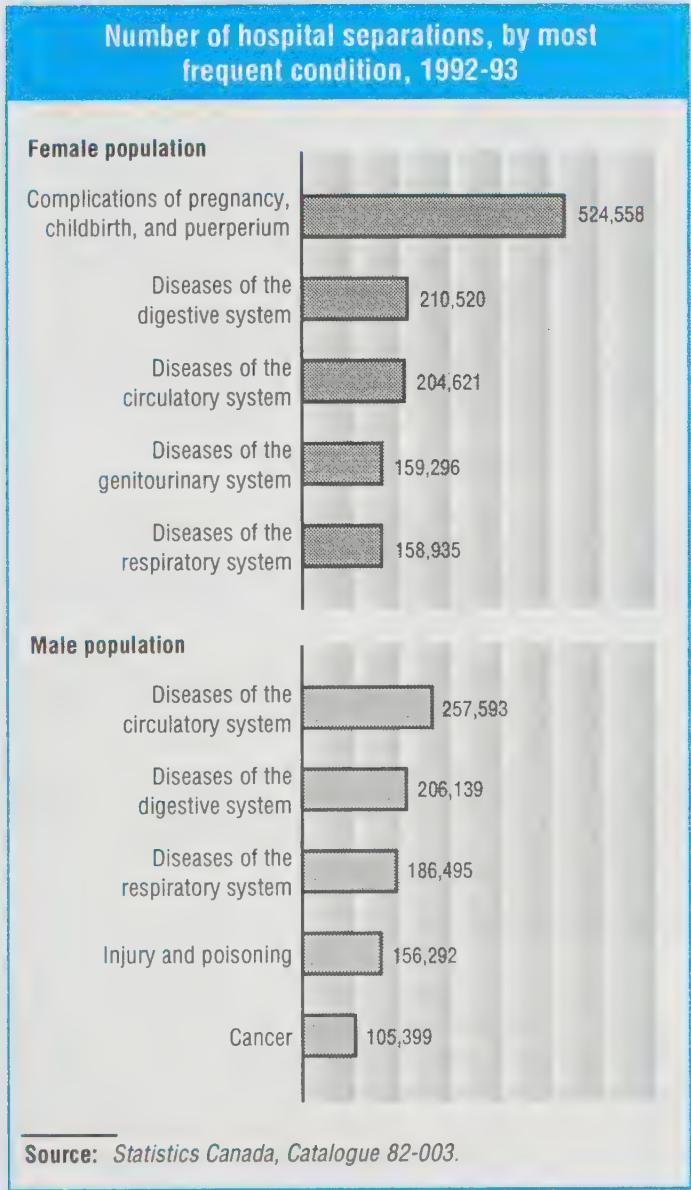
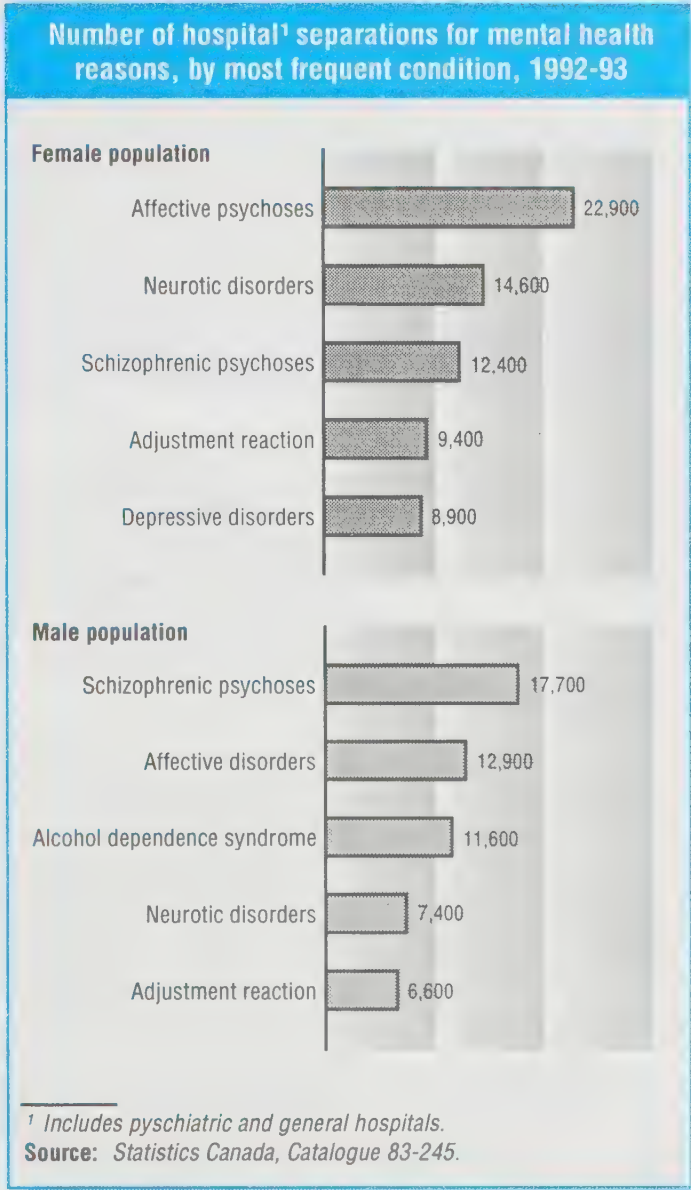


Chart 4.8



Therapeutic abortions¹²

The rate of therapeutic abortions performed in hospitals has remained relatively stable over the past two decades.¹³ In 1992, there were just over 70,000 abortions performed in hospitals in Canada on Canadian women. This represented 10.4 therapeutic abortions for every 1,000 women aged 15-44, up slightly from 9.6 in 1975, but down from 11.2 in 1989 and 1990. (Table 4.14)

Women aged 18-24 are more likely than women in other age groups to have therapeutic abortions. In 1992, there were 21 abortions performed for every 1,000 women aged 20-24 and 20 among 18-19-year-olds. This compared with 13 for women aged 25-29, 10 for those aged 15-17, 9 for those aged 30-34, 5 for those aged 35-39, and 2 for women in the 40-44 age range. (Table 4.15)

Although women in Canada have access to therapeutic abortion services at both hospitals and private clinics, data from clinics have not been reported in a consistent manner across the country. For instance, seven provinces¹⁴ reported data on abortions performed in private clinics in 1992, but only Québec reported such data prior to 1990.

In fact, recent statistics suggest that a substantial share of all therapeutic abortions in Canada are performed in private abortion clinics. Private clinics in seven provinces reported performing approximately 30,000 therapeutic abortions on Canadian women in 1992. Together, this represented about 30% of the total number of abortions reported by hospitals and private clinics in Canada that year. (Table 4.16)

Preventive practices and lifestyle

Preventive practices and lifestyle are factors which can affect the health of women. For example, it is recommended that women aged 50-69 receive a mammogram once every two years to promote early diagnosis of breast cancer. Lifestyle activities such as smoking, drinking, or participation in physical activity may also influence the risk of contracting some diseases.

Mammograms

Mammography is an important preventive practice for the early detection of breast cancer. At present, the Canadian Cancer Society recommends that women aged 50-69 undergo a mammogram once every two years, as there is strong evidence that early detection of breast cancer among women in this age group reduces the risk of death from this disease. However, in 1990, only 45% of women aged 50-59 and 34% of those aged 60-69 had received a mammogram within the past two years. (Table 4.17)

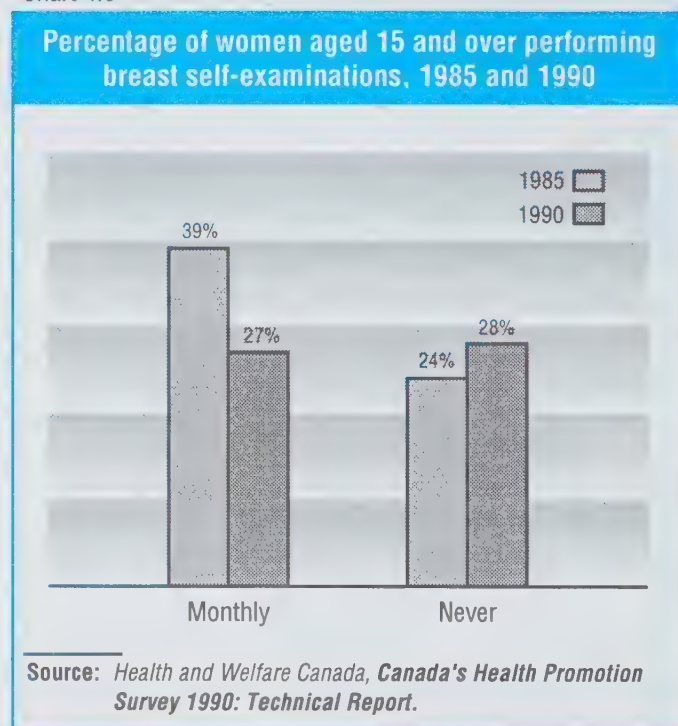
Monthly breast self-examination

Although a large proportion of Canadian women have performed breast self-examinations, relatively few report

that they do this exam on a monthly basis, as recommended by the Canadian Cancer Society. In 1990, 27% of women aged 15 and over did a breast self-exam on a monthly basis, while 19% did one every 2-3 months and 27% performed this exam less frequently. Twenty-eight percent of women had never done a breast self-examination. (Table 4.18)

As well, the proportion of women who practise monthly breast self-examination has declined over the last several years. In 1990, 27% of women did a monthly breast self-examination, down from 39% in 1985. At the same time, the proportion of women who had never done a breast self-examination increased from 24% in 1985 to 28% in 1990. (Chart 4.9)

Chart 4.9



Women in older age ranges are more likely than younger women to practise monthly breast self-examination. Still, only about one in three women in high risk groups over age 50 performed this exam on a monthly basis. In 1990, about 35% of women aged 45-54 and 55-64 did a breast self-examination once a month, while the figure was 28% among seniors. (Table 4.18)

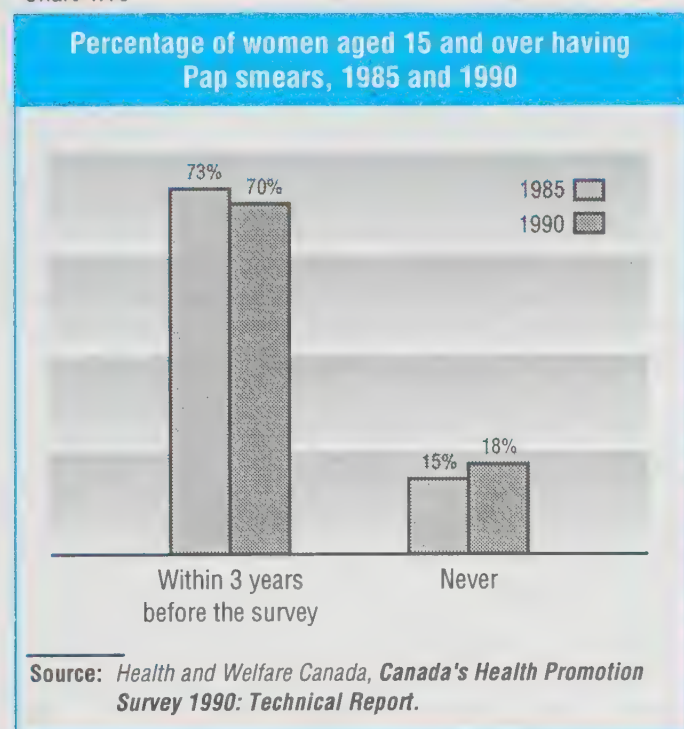
Pap smear practices

It is presently recommended that sexually active women up to age 70 receive a Pap smear test once every three years to detect cervical cancer. In fact, most women in Canada had received this test within these guidelines. In 1990, 50% of all women aged 15 and over had been screened for cervical cancer within the last year, while another 20% had received their most recent Pap smear

within the previous three years. Still, 11% of women reported that they had not received a Pap smear in the past three years and 18% had never been screened. (Table 4.19)

As well, the proportion of women who have had a Pap smear within the recommended guidelines has declined over the last several years, falling from 73% in 1985 to 70% in 1990. (Chart 4.10)

Chart 4.10



Preventive practices and socio-economic factors

It should also be noted that for some preventive practices, there is a demonstrated relationship between the prevalence of the practice and certain socio-economic factors, such as educational attainment and income. For example, the likelihood of receiving a Pap smear test within the recommended three-year guideline tends to increase with educational attainment and income adequacy.¹⁵

Similarly, the likelihood of women aged 50 and over receiving mammograms also tends to increase with education and income adequacy. On the other hand, there is no significant relationship between the practice of monthly breast self-examination among women of different educational and income levels.

Smoking

Cigarette smoking is one of the risk factors often associated with diseases such as lung cancer, heart disease and stroke, cardiovascular disease, and other respiratory diseases. In 1994,¹⁶ 28% of women aged 15 and over were current smokers. This included 23% who smoked on a daily basis

and 5% who smoked on occasion. At the same time, 13% of women were experimental smokers, that is, they did not smoke at the time of the survey, but had smoked up to 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. As well, 34% of women had never smoked and 25% were former smokers. (Table 4.20)

The percentage of women who currently smoke is much lower than it was fifteen years ago. In 1994, 28% of all women aged 15 and over were current smokers, down from 32% in 1985 and 37% in 1978. Among men, the prevalence of smoking decreased even more sharply, falling from 44% of those aged 15 and over in 1978 to 31% in 1994. (Chart 4.11)

Women aged 20-24 are the most likely to smoke cigarettes. In 1994, 34% of women aged 20-24, along with 31% of those aged 25-64 and 29% of women aged 15-19 were current smokers, compared with 14% of women aged 65 and over.

There has, however, been an increase in the prevalence of smoking among teenaged women in recent years. For example, the percentage of women aged 15-19 who were current smokers jumped from 21% in 1990 to 29% in 1994. This contrasts with the period 1979-1990 when smoking among teenaged women declined from 46% to 21%. At the same time, the decrease in smoking prevalence among women aged 20-24 stalled during the early 1990s, remaining at about 34%. (Chart 4.12)

Chart 4.11

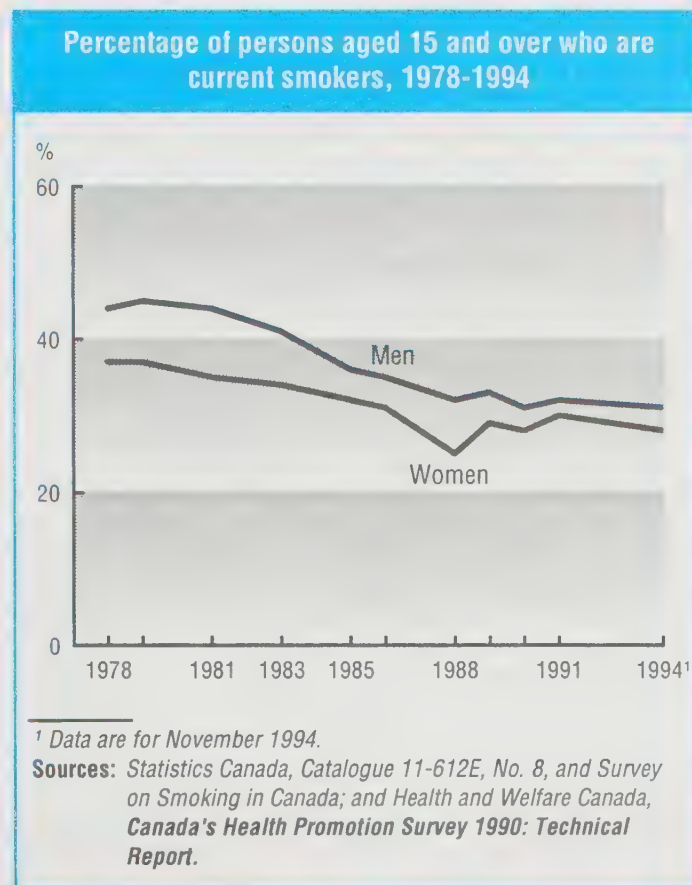
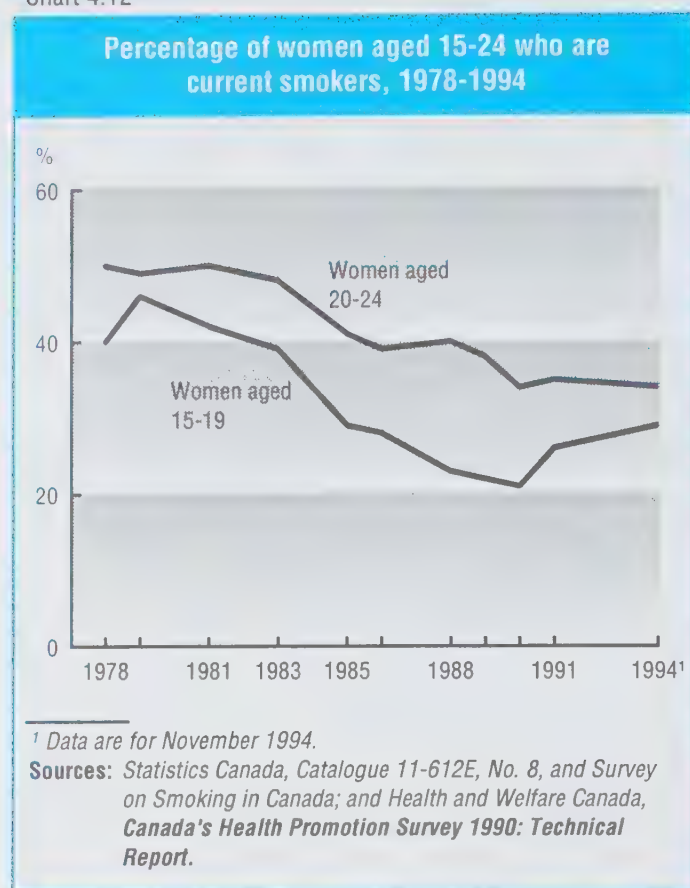


Chart 4.12



Alcohol consumption

The consumption of alcohol is another lifestyle activity that can have an impact on health. In 1993, 45% of all women aged 15 and over were current drinkers, that is, they reported consuming an alcoholic beverage at least once a month. At the same time, 21% of women drank on a less frequent basis, while 20% were former drinkers and 10% were lifetime abstainers. (Table 4.21)

Women, though, are less likely than men to be current drinkers. In 1993, the percentage of women who drank an alcoholic beverage at least once a month was only about two-thirds the figure for men: 45% versus 66%.

The prevalence of drinking among women also tends to vary with age. For example, in 1993, 58% of women aged 20-24 were current drinkers, as were 51% of those aged 25-44. In comparison, the figures were 44% among women aged 45-64, 39% among teenagers, and 26% among women aged 65 and over. At all ages, though, women were less likely than men to be current drinkers.

Licit drug use among women

A relatively small proportion of women use prescription or non-prescription drugs other than aspirin. While 75% of women aged 15 and over used aspirin at least once in the month preceding the 1993 General Social Survey, only 9%

reported the use of a pain reliever such as codeine, demerol, or morphine, 5% took sleeping pills, 4% used tranquilizers, 3% used anti-depressants, and less than 1% used diet pills or stimulants. (Table 4.22)

Women are more likely than men to use licit drugs. In 1993, 75% of women aged 15 and over, compared with 64% of men, used aspirin in the month preceding the survey. As well, 9% of women, versus 7% of men, used pain relievers such as codeine, demerol or morphine, while 5% of women and 3% of men took sleeping pills. Women were also more likely than men to have used tranquilizers and anti-depressants.

The use of licit drugs among women varies considerably with age. Women aged 65 and over, for example, were more likely than younger women to have used sleeping pills and tranquilizers in 1993; however, seniors were also the least likely group of women to have used aspirin or pain killers like codeine, demerol, or morphine. At the same time, women aged 45-64 were the most likely group to use anti-depressants, while the greatest use of diet pills or stimulants was reported among young women.

Leisure-time physical activity

Women who are physically active are less likely to report chronic health problems, while they may also be less susceptible to certain diseases such as osteoporosis and colorectal cancer.

Most women in Canada are physically active to some degree during their leisure time. In 1991, 26% of women were very active and 46% were moderately active, while 25% were sedentary. However, women tend to be less active than men. In 1991, 39% of men reported that they were very active during their leisure time, while 19% were sedentary. (Table 4.23)

Women in older age groups tend to be less physically active than younger women. In 1991, for example, just 11% of women aged 65 and over were very active during their leisure time, compared with 17% of women aged 45-64, 28% of women aged 25-44, 40% of those aged 20-24, and 50% of 15-19-years-olds. At the same time, 42% of senior women were sedentary, compared with 27% of those aged 45-64, 23% of those aged 25-44, 17% of those aged 20-24, and 10% of those aged 15-19.

As well, women tend to be less active than men in all age groups. This is especially pronounced for young people. In 1991, for example, 17% of women aged 20-24 engaged in sedentary leisure-time activities, compared with just 8% of their male counterparts.

Compared with women who were active during their leisure time, women who were sedentary were more likely to report many types of health problems, such as arthritis and rheumatism, hypertension, heart trouble, and emphysema. (Table 4.24)

¹ Because women in Canada do not constitute a homogeneous group, life expectancy also varies among different segments of the female population. For example, as reported in Chapter 11, the life expectancy of the female registered Indian population is considerably lower than that of the total female population in Canada.

² Refers to the number of deaths per 100,000 population that would have been observed if the actual age-specific rates for a particular year had prevailed in the 1991 population. The process of age-standardization permits comparisons between years, since it accounts for changes that have occurred over time in the age distribution of the population.

³ The findings of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples indicated that the rate of suicide among Aboriginal women is considerably higher than the rates reported for the female population as a whole. For more information, see **The Path to Healing: The Report of the National Round Table on Aboriginal Health and Social Issues**, Ottawa, 1993.

⁴ Data on sexually transmitted diseases are considered to underestimate the actual incidence of these diseases, since these diseases are asymptomatic, especially in women. As a result, people may not seek treatment and the disease is not diagnosed.

⁵ See **Quarterly surveillance update: AIDS in Canada**, January 1995, Laboratory Centre for Disease Control, Health Canada.

⁶ See Shecter, M.T. et al, "How many persons in Canada have been infected with HIV? An exploration using back calculation methods," in **Clinical Investigative Medicine**, Vol. 15, No. 4, 1992.

⁷ Regular testing of the blood supply for HIV has been in place since 1985.

⁸ These data refer to general and allied special hospitals in Canada. They do not include cases treated in psychiatric

hospitals, although they do include patients treated in psychiatric units of general and allied special hospitals.

⁹ Hospital separations refer to the discharge or death of an inpatient. These statistics, however, do not reflect the experience of individual patients, since repeat hospitalizations may occur.

¹⁰ Includes spontaneous abortion; legally induced abortion; other abortion; other pregnancy with abortive outcome; normal delivery; hemorrhage of pregnancy; other complications related to pregnancy; indication for care in pregnancy, labour and delivery; complications occurring in labour and delivery, and complication of the puerperium.

¹¹ **Source:** Statistics Canada, Catalogue 83-245.

¹² Between 1969 and 1988, Canadian law held that abortion was a criminal act, except when approved by the committee of an accredited or approved hospital, which felt that the life or the health of the woman was in danger. In 1988, the Supreme Court of Canada removed the existing abortion legislation from the **Criminal Code**. As a result, therapeutic abortion is currently a health service governed by the **Canada Health Act**.

¹³ Includes only therapeutic abortions performed on Canadian women in Canadian hospitals.

¹⁴ Includes Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Québec, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia. No data were reported for Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan.

¹⁵ For more information, see **Canada's Health Promotion Survey 1990: Technical Report**, Health and Welfare Canada, Ottawa, 1993.

¹⁶ 1994 data are for November of that year.

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Table 4.1
Life expectancy at selected ages, 1921-1991

	Additional years expected to live							
	At birth		At age 20		At age 40		At age 65	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
1921	60.6	58.8	49.1	48.9	32.7	32.1	13.6	13.0
1931	62.1	60.0	49.8	49.1	33.0	32.0	13.7	13.0
1941	66.3	63.0	51.8	49.6	34.0	31.9	14.1	12.8
1951	70.9	66.4	54.4	50.8	35.7	32.4	15.0	13.3
1961	74.3	68.4	56.7	51.5	37.4	33.0	16.1	13.6
1971	76.4	69.4	58.3	51.8	39.1	33.3	17.6	13.8
1981	79.1	71.9	60.2	53.4	40.8	34.7	18.9	14.6
1991	80.9	74.6	61.7	55.6	42.2	36.8	19.9	15.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 89-506 and 91-209, and Health Statistics Division.

Table 4.2
Total deaths and age-standardized¹ death rates, by selected causes, 1981 and 1992

	Women				Men			
	1981		1992		1981		1992	
	Total deaths	Rate ²	Total deaths	Rate ²	Total deaths	Rate ²	Total deaths	Rate ²
All cancers	17,974	148.8	24,785	152.8	22,440	238.9	30,053	244.0
Lung cancer	2,170	17.9	4,829	29.6	7,147	73.1	9,747	77.4
Breast cancer	3,604	30.1	4,677	30.4
Colorectal cancer	2,616	21.5	2,779	16.6	2,670	29.2	3,147	25.9
Heart diseases	24,754	202.7	25,419	141.4	33,633	379.2	30,051	255.8
Cerebrovascular disease	8,244	67.4	8,419	46.3	6,601	80.8	6,052	54.0
Respiratory disease	3,980	32.5	7,252	40.3	6,999	84.3	9,410	84.9
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	874	7.3	703	4.5	2,713	17.3	1,419	10.7
Suicide	833	7.0	786	5.4	2,570	21.4	2,923	20.8
Motor vehicle accidents	1,391	10.7	1,067	7.3	4,054	31.2	2,389	17.1
Total all causes	73,974	606.1	90,670	525.5	97,055	1,051.8	105,865	882.1

¹Standardized to the 1991 Canadian population.

²Deaths per 100,000 population.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 84-209.

Table 4.3
Female deaths rates for selected causes, by age, 1992

	Women aged							
	Under 20	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	80 and over
Deaths per 100,000 female population								
All cancers	3.3	5.9	23.4	83.6	234.2	490.2	835.0	1,322.7
Lung cancer	--	0.2	2.9	15.9	56.2	122.1	163.7	143.9
Breast cancer	--	0.4	7.6	25.8	59.5	98.1	139.8	206.1
Colorectal cancer	--	0.1	1.2	4.7	21.2	49.2	94.5	209.8
Ovarian cancer	--	0.4	1.2	5.3	13.9	28.4	42.5	49.4
Cervical cancer	--	0.5	1.7	4.0	3.6	6.5	8.0	10.6
Heart diseases	0.8	1.4	3.4	12.9	57.0	223.9	774.6	3,233.0
Cerebrovascular disease	0.2	0.8	2.2	7.4	18.1	49.7	225.6	1,175.1
Respiratory disease	1.4	1.3	1.8	4.6	14.5	63.2	208.9	929.6
Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	0.1	0.3	1.0	2.9	9.5	16.7	22.0	20.0
Motor vehicle accidents	5.6	8.4	6.1	6.3	6.5	9.2	13.4	16.3
Total all causes	49.7	39.5	64.3	156.9	416.3	1,029.3	2,625.5	9,260.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 84-209.

Table 4.4
Age-standardized¹ incidence rates for selected cancers among women, 1981-1995

	1981		1986		1991		1995 ²	
	Number	Rate ³	Number	Rate ³	Number	Rate ³	Number	Rate ³
Breast	10,142	86.1	11,702	88.2	15,024	99.8	17,700	102.7
Colorectal	5,740	47.6	6,590	47.4	6,917	43.5	7,500	41.0
Lung	2,918	24.1	4,299	31.6	5,726	37.5	7,300	42.1
Body of uterus	2,638	21.7	2,650	19.5	2,882	19.0	3,000	16.9
Cervix	1,610	14.0	1,406	10.9	1,406	9.7	1,150	7.8
Bladder	1,044	8.6	1,039	7.4	1,123	71.0	1,150	6.0
Total all cancers ⁴	39,078	326.6	43,950	324.3	51,622	336.9	59,000	334.8

¹Standardized to the 1991 Canadian population.

²Estimated figures.

³Cases per 100,000 population.

⁴Excludes non-melanoma skin cancer.

Source: National Cancer Institute of Canada, *Cancer Incidence in Canada, 1969-1991* and *Canadian Cancer Statistics, 1995*.

Table 4.5
Incidence rates for selected cancers, by age, 1995¹

	Colorectal cancer		Lung cancer		Breast cancer	All cancers	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Women	Men
Cases per 100,000 population							
Persons aged							
Under 20	--	--	--	--	--	17	18
20-29	1	1	1	--	4	42	38
30-39	3	4	4	2	36	108	68
40-49	17	22	22	22	142	297	173
50-59	64	94	80	132	222	617	591
60-69	141	232	191	393	348	1,135	1,713
70-79	256	400	245	614	437	1,650	3,014
80 and over	364	509	172	599	392	1,866	3,814

¹Estimated rates.

Source: National Cancer Institute of Canada, *Cancer Incidence in Canada, 1961-1991* and *Canadian Cancer Statistics, 1995*.

Table 4.6
Incidence rates for reported sexually transmitted diseases, by age, 1993

	Women			Men		
	Gonococcal infections	Chlamydial infections	Syphilis ¹	Gonococcal infections	Chlamydial infections	Syphilis ¹
Cases per 100,000 population						
Persons aged						
15-19	124.9	1,358.7	2.2	59.9	210.5	0.8
20-24	98.3	1,193.6	7.0	96.7	397.6	3.3
25-29	34.6	395.9	0.4	74.3	191.2	5.0
30-39	11.8	100.9	2.6	32.9	58.4	4.1
40-59	2.3	14.9	2.6	9.5	13.3	3.8
60 and over	0.2	1.6	4.4	1.3	1.3	5.1
Total aged 15 and over	25.4	281.1	3.1	32.9	93.7	3.9

¹Includes all reported types of syphilis, except congenital.

Source: Health Canada, Health Protection Branch, Division of STD Control/BCDE/LCDC.

Table 4.7
AIDS cases, by year of diagnosis,¹ 1986-1993

	Persons aged 15 and over		Women as a % of total	Children under age 15	
	Women	Men		Female	Male
1986	26	582	4.3	5	2
1987	49	840	5.4	4	3
1988	57	1,021	5.2	3	5
1989	68	1,186	5.4	4	7
1990	52	1,236	4.0	5	4
1991	72	1,267	5.4	5	7
1992	81	1,375	5.7	5	12
1993	77	1,260	5.9	6	4

¹Due to delays and underreporting, the number of AIDS cases diagnosed during any period of time, especially in recent years, often exceeds the number of AIDS cases actually reported.

Source: Health Canada, Division of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology.

Table 4.8
Persons diagnosed with AIDS as of December 1994, by age at the time of diagnosis

	Women		Men	
	Number of cases	%	Number of cases	%
Persons aged				
15-19	3	0.5	34	0.3
20-29	174	30.2	1,752	17.5
30-39	219	38.0	4,467	44.7
40-49	80	13.9	2,727	27.3
50 and over	100	17.4	1,020	10.2
Total aged 15 and over	576	100.0	10,000	100.0
Reported deaths of those aged 15 and over	374	64.9	7,023	70.2
Children under age 15	54	100.0	59	100.0
Reported deaths of those under age 15	35	64.8	39	66.1

Source: Health Canada, Division of HIV/AIDS Epidemiology.

Table 4.9
Percentage of persons reporting selected health problems, by age, 1991

	Women aged						Men aged					
	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over	Total	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-74	75 and over	Total
	%											
Health problems												
Hypertension	3	8	24	40	42	16	3	12	25	33	27	16
Heart trouble	1	3	8	20	30	7	--	3	8	22	30	7
Diabetes	--	2	5	9	9	4	--	1	6	10	13	4
Arthritis/rheumatism	6	12	38	56	65	25	2	9	25	44	49	16
Asthma	9	5	5	7	7	6	10	5	4	7	6	6
Emphysema	6	6	10	16	21	9	5	5	7	19	19	7
Hay fever	17	13	11	9	7	13	14	13	9	8	8	11
Skin or other allergies	28	26	24	23	19	25	21	17	11	15	13	16
Stomach ulcer	3	4	6	6	5	5	2	5	3	7	10	4
Other digestive problems	3	7	12	15	16	9	3	6	8	10	15	7
Recurring migraines	13	15	14	8	7	13	5	5	5	4	--	5
High blood cholesterol	2	4	14	20	10	8	--	6	17	10	9	9
Any emotional disorders	4	5	9	11	12	7	2	3	5	6	--	4
Any health problem ¹	53	58	76	86	89	66	47	51	70	82	85	59
Total population (000s)	1,857	4,530	2,664	1,028	636	10,715	1,935	4,476	2,611	796	448	10,266

¹Columns do not add up to total because some respondents reported more than one problem.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No.8.

Table 4.10
Percentage of persons contacting selected health care professionals in 12 months preceding survey, by age, 1991

	Health care professional contacted										Any contact
	Medical doctor	General practitioner	Specialist	Dentist	Nurse	Optometrist	Chiropractor	Psychologist	Physiotherapist	Other	
	%										
Women aged											
15-24	89	87	28	70	14	34	8	7	3	5	98
25-44	89	86	31	66	11	28	10	5	6	6	96
45-64	88	86	34	48	9	34	11	3	8	7	95
65 and over	92	92	35	32	13	40	8	--	6	8	96
Total aged 15 and over	89	87	32	57	11	33	10	4	6	6	96
Total with contact (000s)	9,581	9,331	3,411	6,085	1,218	3,496	1,021	474	641	683	10,292
	%										
Men aged											
15-24	78	77	18	61	14	25	7	5	4	4	93
25-44	74	72	19	56	10	21	11	4	5	4	90
45-64	82	79	29	51	11	30	11	3	5	5	91
65 and over	89	88	39	34	12	35	7	--	5	9	93
Total aged 15 and over	78	77	24	53	11	26	9	3	5	5	91
Total with contact (000s)	8,058	7,865	2,463	5,446	1,126	2,645	969	345	516	513	9,349

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No.8.

Table 4.11
Number of contacts with a medical doctor¹ in 12 months preceding survey, by age, 1991

	Number of contacts			Total with contact ²	None	Total
	1-2	3-9	10 or more			
%						
Women aged						
15-24	43	35	11	89	11	100.0
25-44	45	31	13	89	11	100.0
45-64	40	34	14	88	11	100.0
65 and over	24	43	24	92	6	100.0
Total aged 15 and over	40	34	15	89	10	100.0
Men aged						
15-24	48	27	3	78	22	100.0
25-44	49	20	6	74	25	100.0
45-64	43	30	9	82	18	100.0
65 and over	27	43	19	89	9	100.0
Total aged 15 and over	45	26	7	78	21	100.0

¹Includes general practitioners and specialists.

²Includes those who did not state the number of contacts.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No.8.

Table 4.12
Hospital separations¹ and average days per separation in general and allied special hospitals, by age, 1992-93

	Separations per 100,000 population		Average days per separation	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
Persons aged				
Under 1	19,877	27,561	6.4	6.0
1-4	6,778	9,468	3.8	3.5
5-14	3,792	4,243	4.2	4.5
15-19	10,696	4,855	4.5	6.7
20-24	17,444	4,893	4.2	7.0
25-34	20,655	5,418	4.6	7.8
35-44	10,613	6,661	6.7	8.0
45-64	12,221	13,466	10.7	10.1
65-74	23,203	31,546	15.7	14.2
75 and over	40,605	52,619	28.7	20.9
Total all ages	14,901	10,976	11.0	11.3

¹Hospital separations refer to the discharge or death of an inpatient. They include individual cases separated, not persons separated, that is, an individual may be counted on more than one occasion.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-216.

Table 4.13
Hospital separations¹ for mental health reasons,² by age, 1992-93

	Women		Men	
	Number of separations	Separations per 100,000 population	Number of separations	Separations per 100,000 population
Persons aged				
Under 15	2,620	93.9	2,524	86.0
15-19	6,479	723.2	4,881	518.4
20-24	6,032	625.4	7,366	730.9
25-34	21,228	898.8	23,055	973.5
35-44	21,998	988.9	20,799	949.6
45-64	23,400	838.3	19,770	722.5
65-74	9,630	905.6	7,335	845.5
75 and over	14,219	1,703.3	8,695	1,760.8
Total all ages	105,606	758.3	94,425	697.4

¹Hospital separations refer to the discharge or death of an inpatient. They include individual cases separated, not persons separated, that is, an individual may be counted on more than one occasion.

²Includes separations in psychiatric and general hospitals for mental health reasons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 83-245.

Table 4.14
Therapeutic abortions,¹ 1975-1992

	Number	Rate per 1,000 women aged 15-44	Rate per 100 live births
1975	49,311	9.6	13.7
1976	54,478	10.3	15.1
1977	57,564	10.6	15.9
1978	62,290	11.3	17.4
1979	65,043	11.6	17.8
1980	65,751	11.5	17.7
1981	65,053	11.1	17.5
1982	66,254	11.1	17.8
1983	61,750	10.2	16.5
1984	62,247	10.2	16.5
1985	62,712	10.2	16.7
1986	63,462	10.2	17.0
1987	63,585	10.2	17.2
1988	66,137	10.6	17.6
1989	70,705	11.2	18.0
1990	71,092	11.2	17.5
1991 ²	70,277	10.9	17.5
1992	70,408	10.4	17.7

¹Includes only therapeutic abortions performed on Canadian residents in Canadian hospitals.

²Figures underreported for British Columbia.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-219.

Table 4.15
Therapeutic abortion rates,¹ by age, 1975-1992

	Women aged							
	13-14	15-17	18-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44 ²
	Therapeutic abortions per 1,000 females							
1975	1.3	10.9	16.7	13.8	10.0	6.8	4.9	2.4
1976	1.4	11.3	18.2	15.1	10.9	7.4	5.0	2.5
1977	1.5	11.8	19.2	15.9	11.2	7.5	4.9	2.4
1978	1.3	12.2	21.1	17.2	11.9	7.8	5.0	2.4
1979	1.5	12.8	21.7	18.1	12.2	7.9	4.8	2.1
1980	1.4	12.7	21.8	18.2	12.1	7.9	4.5	2.1
1981	1.4	12.0	21.1	18.0	11.9	7.7	4.4	1.9
1982	1.4	11.7	21.1	18.5	12.0	7.9	4.5	1.9
1983	1.3	10.6	18.8	17.3	11.2	7.5	4.4	1.7
1984	1.2	10.7	18.8	17.5	11.5	7.5	4.5	1.6
1985	1.4	10.4	19.7	17.8	11.5	7.6	4.5	1.7
1986	1.1	10.6	20.5	18.2	11.6	7.8	4.5	1.6
1987	1.2	10.3	21.1	18.6	12.0	7.8	4.6	1.6
1988	1.1	10.4	21.9	19.9	12.7	8.1	4.8	1.7
1989	1.1	12.5	22.9	21.4	13.8	8.8	5.4	1.8
1990	1.3	10.4	22.5	21.9	14.0	9.1	5.4	1.7
1991	1.0	10.4	21.8	21.6	13.9	9.1	5.5	1.7
1992	1.1	9.9	20.3	20.6	13.3	8.7	5.3	1.8

¹Includes only therapeutic abortions performed for Canadian residents in Canadian hospitals.

²Includes therapeutic abortions performed on women aged 45 and over at the time of termination of pregnancy.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-219.

Table 4.16
Number of abortions performed in private clinics on Canadian women, by province,¹ 1991 and 1992

	1991	1992
Newfoundland	396	420
Nova Scotia	563	498
Quebec	8,449	8,575
Ontario	10,287	12,789
Manitoba	971	792
Alberta	..	2,576
British Columbia	2,145 ²	3,913 ²
Total	23,343	29,563

¹No data were reported for Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick or Saskatchewan.

²Estimated figures.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-219.

Table 4.17
Percentage of women having mammograms, by age, 1990

	Most recent mammogram			Total ¹
	Within 2 years of survey	More than 2 years before survey	Never had mammogram	
	%			
Women aged				
15-19	5*	..	95	100.0
20-29	9	4*	87	100.0
30-39	13	9	78	100.0
40-49	37	14	48	100.0
50-59	45	13	41	100.0
60-69	34	17	46	100.0
70 and over	19	13	66	100.0
Total aged 15 and over	22	10	67	100.0

¹Includes those who did not know when the most recent mammogram occurred.

*Figure should be used with caution because of moderate sampling variability.

Source: Health and Welfare Canada, *Canada's Health Promotion Survey 1990: Technical Report*.

Table 4.18
Percentage of women doing breast self-examinations, by age, 1990

	Frequency of breast self-examination				Total
	Once a month	Every 2-3 months	Less than 2-3 months	Never	
	%				
Women aged					
15-19	10*	12	22	57	100.0
20-24	20	18	28	35	100.0
25-34	24	21	30	26	100.0
35-44	29	21	33	17	100.0
45-54	36	19	25	20	100.0
55-64	35	20	23	22	100.0
65 and over	28	16	21	36	100.0
Total aged 15 and over	27	19	27	28	100.0

*Figure should be used with caution because of moderate sampling variability.

Source: Health and Welfare Canada, *Canada's Health Promotion Survey 1990: Technical Report*.

Table 4.19
Percentage of women having Pap smears, by age, 1990

	Most recent Pap smear				Total ¹
	Within 12 months of survey	1-3 years before survey	More than 3 years before survey	Never had Pap smear	
	%				
Women aged					
15-19	33	--	--	60	100.0
20-29	61	14	--	24	100.0
30-39	68	17	4*	11	100.0
40-49	57	26	9	8	100.0
50-59	53	23	15	7*	100.0
60-69	41	26	20	11	100.0
70 and over	21	23	26	27	100.0
Total aged 15 and over	50	20	11	18	100.0

¹Includes those who did not know when the most recent Pap smear occurred.

*Figure should be used with caution because of moderate sampling variability.

Source: Health and Welfare Canada, *Canada's Health Promotion Survey 1990: Technical Report*.

Table 4.20
Percentage distribution of persons, by type of smoker and age, 1994¹

	Current daily smoker	Occasional smoker	Sub-total current smoker	Former smoker	Experimental smoker ²	Lifetime abstainer	Total
	%						
Persons aged							
15-19							
Women	20.9	8.4	29.2	7.9	16.9	46.0	100.0
Men	19.5	6.9	26.3	7.8	19.1	46.7	100.0
20-24							
Women	26.6	7.0	33.6	14.4	16.9	34.9	100.0
Men	30.6	8.4	39.0	11.9	18.5	30.6	100.0
25-64							
Women	25.5	5.5	31.0	27.2	11.9	29.7	100.0
Men	29.5	3.6	33.1	36.8	15.0	14.9	100.0
65 and over							
Women	11.5	2.8	14.2	28.4	13.1	43.6	100.0
Men	13.0	2.5	15.5	62.9	7.4	13.5	100.0
Total aged 15 and over							
Women	23.0	5.4	28.4	24.8	12.9	33.6	100.0
Men	26.6	4.2	30.9	35.2	14.7	19.0	100.0

¹Data are for November, 1994.

²Includes those who do not currently smoke, but who have smoked up to 100 cigarettes in their lifetime.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1994 Survey on Smoking in Canada.

Table 4.21
Percentage of persons who consume alcohol, by type of drinker and age, 1993

	Current drinker ¹	Occasional drinker ²	Former drinker ³	Lifetime abstainer	Total ⁴
	%				
Persons aged					
15-19					
Women	38.6	28.2	14.7	15.2	100.0
Men	43.7	19.8	23.9	12.6	100.0
20-24					
Women	58.4	20.7	13.6	6.3	100.0
Men	79.4	8.1	5.1	5.4	100.0
25-44					
Women	50.7	22.9	17.0	6.7	100.0
Men	73.1	11.4	9.3	3.1	100.0
45-64					
Women	44.2	18.3	22.3	11.6	100.0
Men	66.0	9.9	15.9	3.8	100.0
65 and over					
Women	26.3	16.7	32.9	15.5	100.0
Men	49.9	10.6	26.2	5.3	100.0
Total aged 15 and over					
Women	44.9	21.0	20.4	10.0	100.0
Men	66.4	11.4	14.0	4.6	100.0

¹Persons who consume alcoholic beverages at least once a month.

²Persons who consume alcoholic beverages less than once a month.

³Persons who have consumed at least one drink in their lifetime, but none in the 12 months preceding the survey.

⁴Includes not stated.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993.

Table 4.22
Percentage of persons using selected licit drugs in the month preceding the survey, by age, 1993

	Aspirin	Tranquilizers	Diet pills/ stimulants	Codeine/ demerol/ morphine	Anti- depressants	Sleeping pills
	%					
Persons aged						
15-19						
Women	77.8	0.4	1.1	9.1	1.4	0.6
Men	63.4	0.7	0.6	5.2	1.3	0.4
20-24						
Women	76.3	1.5	1.7	8.6	1.4	2.3
Men	60.3	2.0	1.0	6.8	--	1.9
25-44						
Women	76.9	2.9	0.7	10.3	3.0	2.3
Men	66.0	2.0	0.4	9.0	1.3	2.1
45-64						
Women	75.0	6.0	0.2	8.4	5.6	5.7
Men	62.9	4.4	0.5	6.5	2.2	4.4
65 and over						
Women	67.9	9.2	0.5	6.6	3.2	15.3
Men	64.3	8.1	0.4	5.4	2.7	9.7
Total aged 15 and over						
Women	75.1	4.3	0.6	9.0	3.4	5.0
Men	64.2	3.3	0.5	7.4	1.6	3.4

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993.

Table 4.23
Level of leisure-time physical activity,¹ by age, 1991

	Sedentary	Moderately active	Active	Total ²
	%			
Persons aged				
15-19				
Women	9.8	38.8	49.6	100.0
Men	--	27.4	66.3	100.0
20-24				
Women	17.4	39.2	39.6	100.0
Men	7.9	27.5	63.7	100.0
25-44				
Women	22.8	45.6	28.4	100.0
Men	20.1	34.3	43.0	100.0
45-64				
Women	27.3	52.9	16.9	100.0
Men	23.7	45.5	25.3	100.0
65 and over				
Women	41.6	41.2	10.5	100.0
Men	28.4	50.1	13.3	100.0
Total aged 15 and over				
Women	25.2	45.6	25.5	100.0
Men	19.3	37.8	39.0	100.0

¹The level of physical activity is defined by the usual total time per week spent on activities described by the respondent as light, moderate or vigorous. Energy expenditure values were assigned according to the demands of the type of activity.

²Includes not stated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No.8.

Table 4.24
Percentage of persons reporting selected health problems, by level of leisure-time physical activity,¹ 1991

	Sedentary	Moderately active	Active	Not stated	Total
	%				
Health problems					
Hypertension					
Women	22.3	15.8	9.3	19.9	15.9
Men	19.3	18.6	10.6	19.1	15.6
Heart trouble					
Women	11.8	6.1	4.1	7.2	7.0
Men	10.6	7.8	3.2	10.3	6.7
Diabetes					
Women	4.5	3.6	1.9	6.6	3.4
Men	4.7	4.4	1.9	6.5	3.6
Arthritis/rheumatism					
Women	35.1	24.2	15.4	25.6	24.7
Men	25.1	19.0	9.3	19.6	16.4
Emphysema					
Women	14.2	7.4	5.8	7.4	8.7
Men	13.4	7.0	4.4	--	7.2
Recurring migraines					
Women	16.3	12.5	12.1	12.0	13.4
Men	5.3	5.8	4.4	--	5.0
High blood cholesterol					
Women	9.8	9.5	4.6	6.6	8.2
Men	9.3	10.8	6.3	--	8.6
Any emotional disorders					
Women	10.4	6.3	3.9	--	6.7
Men	5.4	4.9	2.1	--	3.8

¹The level of physical activity is defined by the usual total time per week spent on activities described by the respondent as light, moderate or vigorous.
 Energy expenditure values were assigned according to the demands of the type of activity.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-612E, No.8.

EDUCATION

by Josée Normand

Educational attainment

There have been substantial increases in the educational attainment of women during the last two decades. Between 1971 and 1991, for example, the proportion of women aged 15 and over with a university degree rose from 3% to 10%. (Table 5.1)

The proportion of women with a university degree, though, is still lower than that of the male population. In 1991, 10% of women aged 15 and over were university graduates, compared with 13% of men. This gap, however, is smaller than that recorded in 1971, when 3% of women, versus 7% of men, had a university degree.

The share of women with other forms of postsecondary training also increased substantially in the last two decades, rising from 18% in 1971 to 32% in 1991. As a result, women are currently slightly more likely than men to have this level of educational attainment.

At the same time, the proportion of women with low levels of educational attainment has declined in the last two decades. The percentage of women with less than a Grade 9 education, for example, fell from 31% in 1971 to 14% in 1991. There is also currently no difference in the proportion of women and men with less than a Grade 9 education.

Young women better educated

Young women tend to have higher levels of educational attainment, on average, than their male counterparts. In 1991, 10% of women aged 20-24, compared with 8% of men in this age range, had a university degree. Women aged 20-24 were also more likely than their male contemporaries to have a non-university certificate or diploma: 21% versus 14%. On the other hand, they were less likely not to have gone beyond Grade 8: 2% versus 3%. (Table 5.2)

In contrast, women aged 25 and over tend to have less formal training than men in these age ranges. Among 45-64-year-olds, for example, women were only about half as likely as men to have a university degree in 1991: 8% versus 14%. As well, women aged 25-44 were slightly less likely than their male counterparts to be university graduates: 16% versus 18%.

Women majority in university

The overall difference in the proportions of women and men with a university degree is likely to close even further in the future, since women currently make up the majority

of full-time students in Canadian universities. In the 1992-93 academic year, 52% of all university students were female, up from 49% in 1981-82 and 40% in 1972-73. (Table 5.3)

Fewer in graduate studies

Women's share of full-time university enrolment, however, declines at the graduate levels. In 1992-93, women made up just 35% of those working toward their doctorates and 46% of those in Master's programs, whereas they made up 53% of all students in Bachelor's and first professional degree programs. (Table 5.3)

The share of enrolment accounted for by women, though, increased substantially at all levels over the past two decades. Indeed, the share of total enrolment currently accounted for by women at both the Master's (46%) and doctoral levels (35%) has almost doubled since 1972-73, when women represented 27% of Master's students and 19% of doctoral candidates.

Women majority in most fields of study

Women make up the majority of full-time students in most university faculties. In 1992-93, over 65% of all students in both health-related programs and education, as well as 62% of those in fine and applied arts and 60% of those in the humanities, were women. Women also made up 57% of agricultural and biological science students and 54% of those in the social sciences. (Table 5.4)

At the same time, though, women still account for much smaller shares of enrolment in mathematics and science faculties. In 1992-93, only 28% of all university students in mathematics and physical sciences and just 18% of those in engineering and applied sciences were women.

The proportion of engineering and applied science students currently accounted for by women, however, has increased since the early 1980s. In 1992-93, women made up 18% of students in these programs, up from 10% in 1981-82 and 3% in 1972-73. There has also been some growth in women's share of enrolment in mathematics and physical sciences since the early 1970s, although most of this increase occurred in the 1970s.

There are also substantial differences in women's share of undergraduate and graduate enrolment in the various faculties. For example, at the Bachelor's and first professional degree level, women outnumber men in all faculties except engineering and applied sciences, and mathematics and physical sciences. In contrast, women represent the majority of doctoral candidates only in

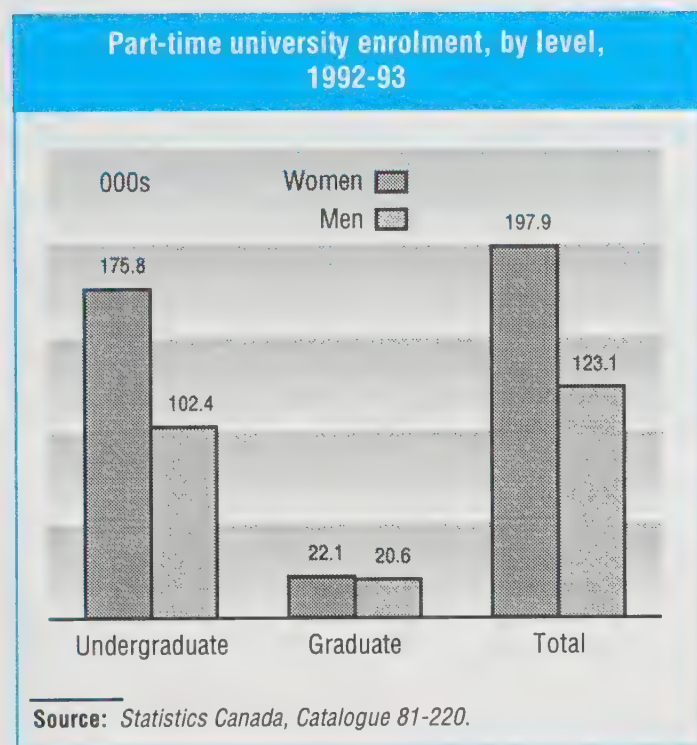
education. In fact, in 1992-93, women made up just 33% of doctoral students in agriculture and biological sciences, 19% of those in mathematics and physical sciences, and 11% of those in engineering and applied sciences. (Table 5.5)

Part-time university enrolment of women

A substantial number of women attend university on a part-time basis. In 1992-93, almost 200,000 women were part-time university students. That year, part-time students represented around 40% of the total university enrolment of women. In comparison, around 30% of all male university students were studying on a part-time basis.

In fact, women make up the majority of part-time university students. In 1992-93, 62% of all those attending university on a part-time basis were women. (Chart 5.1)

Chart 5.1



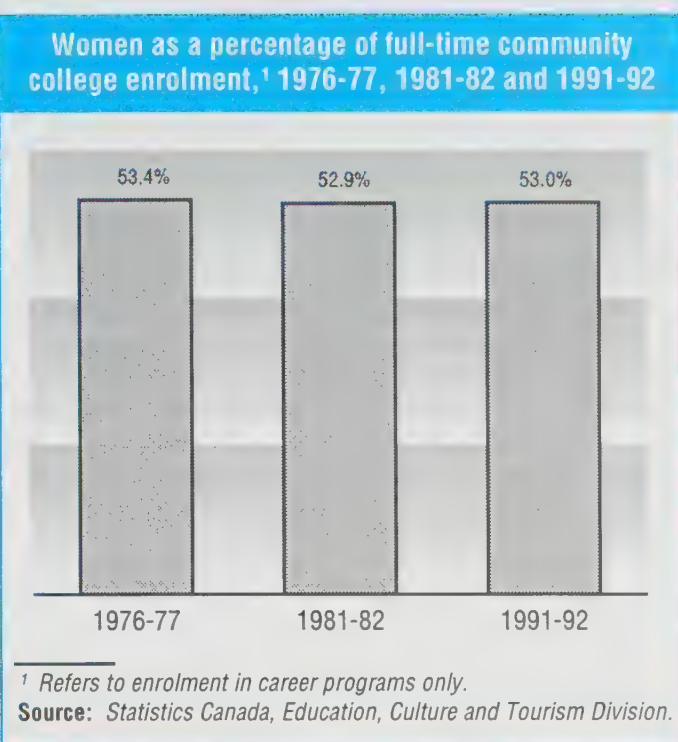
Women also make up the majority of part-time university students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. In 1992-93, 63% of part-time undergraduate students and 52% of those at the graduate level were women.

Women in community college

Women currently also make up the majority of students in community colleges. In 1991-92, 53% of all full-time college students were women, a figure which is virtually unchanged from both 1981-82 and 1976-77. (Chart 5.2)

As in universities, there is wide divergence in women's share of enrolment in different fields of study at the college

Chart 5.2



level. Women, for example, made up the vast majority of all full-time college students enrolled in secretarial science (96%), educational and counselling services (90%), and nursing (89%) in 1991-92. They also represented 71% of those in health sciences other than nursing, 67% of those in humanities, 61% of those in social sciences other than education, 57% in fine and applied arts, 56% in arts and sciences, and 52% in business and commerce programs other than secretarial science. (Table 5.6)

In contrast, women accounted for only 32% of full-time community college enrolment in natural science and primary industry programs and 30% of that in mathematics and computer science. They also made up just 12% of students in both engineering and other technologies.

Continuing education

A substantial number of employed women take courses designed to upgrade their job qualifications. In 1991, over 1.6 million employed women, 30% of all women with jobs, were participating in some kind of job-related education or training program. (Table 5.7)

Most women participating in job-related training are enrolled in non-academic courses oriented towards improving employment skills. In 1991, 25% of all employed women were taking courses of this nature. At the same time, 8% of working women were taking courses designed to upgrade their academic qualifications. As well, these figures were about the same as those for employed men.

Apprenticeship training¹

Women make up a very small proportion of those registered in apprenticeship programs² in traditionally male-dominated trades. In 1992, just 1% of all apprentices registered in 15 predominant trades³ were women. The total number of women participating in these programs, however, has doubled since 1988. (Table 5.8)

While the overall number of women registering in apprenticeship programs in the 15 identified trades is quite small, a few trades have a slightly higher representation of women. For example, in 1992, 4% of apprentices in both machinist programs and the painter/decorator trade were women. In contrast, less than 1% of those in industrial electrician programs, millwrights, steamfitters, bricklayers, plumbers, heavy duty equipment mechanics, and sheet metal apprentices were women.

There have been increases, however, in the representation of women in many of these programs. The share of all apprentices accounted by women among carpenters, bricklayers, and motor vehicle mechanics almost tripled between 1988 and 1992, while the proportion in several other trades, including motor vehicle body repair, painting/decorating, and refrigeration/air conditioning all more than doubled.

Computer use

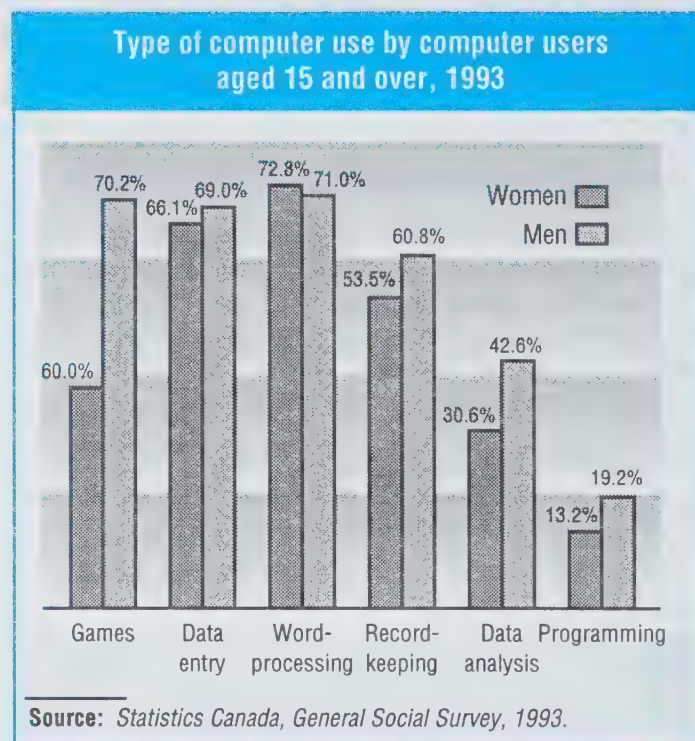
More than half of women in Canada use computers. In 1993, 56% of women aged 15 and over reported that they used a computer, about the same figure as for men (58%). (Table 5.9)

Young women are the most likely to use a computer. In 1993, 83% of women aged 15-19 used a computer, while the proportion was 77% for women aged 20-24, 72% for those aged 25-34, 69% for those aged 35-44, and 55% for those aged 45-54. In contrast, only 35% of 55-64-year-old women and 8% of women aged 65 and over were computer users.

There is also little variation in the proportions of women and men in different age groups using computers. Young women and those aged 45 and over were slightly less likely than their male counterparts to use a computer, whereas in age groups between 25 and 44, women were somewhat more likely than men to use a computer.

Women use computers for a wide variety of purposes. In 1993, 60% of all female users used computers to play games, while 73% did word-processing and 66% did data entry. At the same time, 54% of women used computers for record-keeping, 31% did data analysis, and 13% did programming. (Chart 5.3)

Chart 5.3



Women are slightly more likely than men to use computers for data entry and word-processing. However, they are considerably less likely than men to use computers to play games or to do data analysis or programming. For example, in 1993, 31% of female users, versus 43% of male users, did data analysis. At the same time, 13% of women who used computers, compared with 19% of their male counterparts, did programming.

Literacy skills

Overall, the majority of women in Canada who have knowledge of English or French have the literacy skills necessary to meet most everyday reading demands in one of the official languages. Still, in 1989, 15% of adult women reported that they had very limited reading skills, that is, they either had difficulty dealing with any printed material at all (5%) or could only use printed material for limited purposes such as finding a familiar word in a simple text (10%). These figures were about the same as those for men. (Table 5.10)

Older women are much more likely than their younger counterparts to have literacy difficulties. In 1989, 35% of women aged 55-69 had very limited reading skills, compared with 25% of women aged 45-54, 10% of those aged 35-44, 6% of those aged 25-34, and 5% of those aged 16-24. (Table 5.11)

Foreign-born women are more likely than those born in Canada to have literacy problems. In 1989, 32% of foreign-born women had very limited reading skills, compared with 11% of Canadian-born women. (Table 5.12)

¹ For more information on apprenticeship training see "Women in Registered Apprenticeship Training Programs," by Karl Skof, in *Statistics Canada, Catalogue 81-003, Vol. 1, No. 4*.

² Apprenticeship training involves a contract between an apprentice and an employer registered with a province, in which the employer provides the apprentice with training and experience for a trade. Programs vary in length from one to five years, depending on the trade. Registered apprenticeship combines on-the-job experience with six to eight week periods of in-class training.

³ There are about 170 established trades in Canada that have recognized registered apprenticeship programs. The 15 trades discussed in this analysis are those with the largest number of participants. Between 1988 and 1992, these major trades accounted for 73% of all apprentices; and each had more than 3,000 registrants in 1992. Two additional trades with over 3,000 registrations, hairdresser (hairstylist) and cook, were not included because they already attract a large number of female apprentices. In fact, between 1988 and 1992, women accounted for about 86% of the apprentices in hairdressing (hairstylists) and 26% of the cooks.

Josée Normand is an analyst with the Target Groups Project.

Table 5.1
Educational attainment of persons aged 15 and over, 1971-1991

	Women			Men		
	1971	1981	1991	1971	1981	1991
	%					
Educational attainment						
Less than Grade 9	31.4	20.6	14.3	33.2	20.8	14.3
Grades 9-13	48.2	45.4	43.3	43.5	41.8	41.8
Some postsecondary	17.5	27.8	32.4	16.7	27.5	31.0
University degree	3.0	6.2	10.0	6.6	9.9	12.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	7,578.7	9,457.7	10,882.6	7,473.9	9,151.6	10,422.1

Source: *Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-328.*

Table 5.2
Educational attainment, by age, 1991

	Persons aged							
	20-24		25-44		45-64		65 and over	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
Educational attainment								
Less than Grade 9	2.4	3.2	5.0	5.4	22.1	22.1	39.3	39.9
Some secondary school	15.9	20.7	18.1	19.3	24.4	20.2	26.6	22.4
High school graduate	15.9	18.6	18.5	13.9	15.0	10.4	11.5	8.0
Trade certificate/diploma	7.9	9.0	9.3	16.2	7.3	16.3	4.4	10.6
Some postsecondary	26.2	27.0	11.6	11.1	7.8	6.4	6.4	5.4
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	21.3	13.9	22.0	16.6	15.6	10.6	8.7	5.9
University degree	10.3	7.6	15.6	17.5	7.8	13.8	3.1	7.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	974.7	985.9	4,632.0	4,562.0	2,692.1	2,653.1	1,672.4	1,259.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-328.

Table 5.3
Full-time university enrolment of women, by level, 1972-73, 1981-82 and 1992-93

	1972-73			1981-82			1992-93		
	000s	%	Women as a % of total in level	000s	%	Women as a % of total in level	000s	%	Women as a % of total in level
Bachelor's/first professional degree	146.2	92.7	42.6	219.1	89.8	50.1	265.6	91.0	53.4
Master's	8.9	5.6	26.7	20.7	8.5	40.8	18.9	6.4	46.2
Doctorate	2.6	1.7	19.4	4.2	1.7	31.1	7.4	2.5	35.2
Total	157.8	100.0	40.4	244.1	100.0	48.6	292.0	100.0	52.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 5.4
Full-time university enrolment of women, by field of study, 1972-73, 1981-82 and 1992-93

	1972-73			1981-82			1992-93		
	000s	%	Women as a % of total in field	000s	%	Women as a % of total in field	000s	%	Women as a % of total in field
Field of study									
Education	33.4	21.2	56.2	45.0	18.4	67.0	40.4	13.8	66.5
Fine/applied arts	5.9	3.8	59.9	10.8	4.4	63.6	11.2	3.8	61.8
Humanities	19.4	12.3	48.1	23.5	9.6	58.8	36.7	12.6	59.8
Social sciences	24.4	15.4	28.9	66.4	27.2	44.8	94.5	32.4	53.5
Agricultural/biological sciences	8.9	5.6	40.4	12.5	5.1	52.2	21.2	7.3	56.8
Engineering/applied sciences	0.7	0.4	2.7	4.7	1.9	10.4	9.8	3.4	18.0
Health professions	10.3	6.5	51.2	17.0	7.0	63.1	21.2	7.3	65.6
Mathematics/physical sciences	4.1	2.6	19.1	8.2	3.3	26.3	9.8	3.3	28.4
Total ¹	157.7	100.0	40.4	244.1	100.0	48.6	292.0	100.0	52.2

¹Includes those with no specialization and those for whom no specialization was stated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 5.5
Women as a percentage of full-time university enrolment, by level and field of study, 1992-93

	Bachelor's and first professional degree	Master's	Doctorate	Total
			%	
Field of study				
Education	66.8	65.8	60.0	66.5
Fine/applied arts	62.2	58.8	45.5	61.8
Humanities	61.2	55.8	45.7	59.8
Social sciences	54.4	46.6	44.7	53.5
Agriculture/biological sciences	59.0	49.6	33.2	56.8
Engineering/applied sciences	18.5	18.2	10.6	18.0
Health professions	67.7	62.0	43.4	65.6
Mathematics/physical sciences	29.9	27.1	18.6	28.4
Total ¹	53.4	46.2	35.2	52.2

¹Includes those with no specialization and those for whom no specialization was stated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 5.6
Full-time community college enrolment¹ of women, by field of study, 1991-92

	000s	%	Women as a % of total in field
Field of study			
Arts/sciences	3,500	2.7	55.7
Fine/applied arts	12,838	10.1	56.5
Humanities	2,093	1.6	67.3
Nursing	21,314	16.7	88.6
Other health sciences	8,019	6.3	71.2
Educational and counselling services	9,782	7.7	90.0
Other social sciences/services	17,421	13.7	61.4
Secretarial science	12,774	10.0	96.3
Other business/commerce	26,976	21.2	52.3
Mathematics/computer science	4,140	3.2	29.7
Engineering technologies	2,976	2.3	12.0
Other technologies	2,118	1.7	11.5
Natural sciences/primary industries	3,352	2.6	31.6
Total ²	127,457	100.0	53.2

¹Refers to enrolment in career programs only.

²Includes other and not reported.

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 5.7
Participation in job-related education or training programs, 1991

	Women		Men	
	000s	As a % of all employed women	000s	As a % of all employed men
Academic programs	444	8	437	7
Other courses	1,339	25	1,553	24
Total ¹	1,648	30	1,862	29

¹Columns add to more than total because respondents could take both types of programs.

Source: Statistics Canada, Adult Education and Training Survey.

Table 5.8
Enrolment of women in apprenticeship programs in selected trades, 1988 and 1992

Program	1988		1992	
	Number of women enrolled	As a % of total enrolled in program	Number of women enrolled	As a % of total enrolled in program
Bricklayer	7	0.2	22	0.6
Carpenter	125	0.5	385	1.4
Electrician construction	143	0.7	305	1.3
Electrician industrial	73	1.0	56	0.6
Heavy-duty equipment mechanic	15	0.3	14	0.3
Millwright	29	0.5	56	0.7
Machinist	76	1.9	126	3.8
Motor vehicle body repair	28	0.7	56	1.5
Motor vehicle mechanic	84	0.4	255	1.4
Painter/decorator	53	1.8	124	3.6
Plumber	28	0.4	46	0.6
Refrigeration/air conditioning	7	0.3	23	0.8
Sheet metal	16	0.3	29	0.5
Steam/pipe fitters	33	0.4	45	0.4
Welder	41	1.2	37	0.9
Total	758	0.6	1,579	1.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Education, Culture and Tourism Division.

Table 5.9
Computer-use indicators, by age, 1993

	Computer use		Computer courses taken		Home ownership of computers	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%					
Persons aged						
15-19	82.5	86.0	69.6	68.3	46.0	51.2
20-24	77.0	83.0	65.8	73.3	34.6	48.1
25-34	71.7	66.0	53.8	46.1	31.4	32.8
35-44	69.4	64.0	48.4	40.2	45.3	42.9
45-54	55.0	58.3	38.7	37.1	41.5	44.1
55-64	35.1	38.6	22.6	23.0	17.2	26.3
65 and over	7.8	14.4	7.2	12.8	6.5	8.8
Total aged 15 and over	56.0	58.3	41.9	41.3	31.8	36.1

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993.

Table 5.10
Reading skill levels of persons aged 16-69, 1989¹

	Women	Men
	%	
Reading skill level		
Difficulty dealing with any printed material	5	5
Can use printed material for limited purposes	10	9
Can use material that is simple	22	23
Can meet most everyday reading demands	63	63
Total	100	100
Total population (000s)	8,893	8,812

¹Includes only persons who reported having skill in one of Canada's official languages.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities, 1989.

Table 5.11
Reading skill levels, by age, 1989¹

	Very limited reading skills ²	Can use simple material	Can meet most everyday reading demands	Total
	%			
Women aged				
16-24	5.4	20.4	74.1	100.0
25-34	5.7	16.4	77.8	100.0
35-44	9.8	18.3	71.9	100.0
45-54	24.5	28.1	47.4	100.0
55-69	35.4	32.3	32.3	100.0
Total aged 16-69	14.8	22.2	63.0	100.0
Men aged				
16-24	6.4	26.2	67.3	100.0
25-34	8.0	17.2	74.8	100.0
35-44	8.6	20.6	70.8	100.0
45-54	17.4	27.6	54.9	100.0
55-69	35.9	25.3	38.9	100.0
Total aged 16-69	14.1	22.7	63.1	100.0

¹Includes only persons who reported having skill in one of Canada's official languages.

²Includes those who either have difficulty with any printed material or can use printed material only for limited purposes.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities, 1989.

Table 5.12
Reading skill levels of Canadian-born and foreign-born persons aged 16-69, 1989¹

	Women		Men	
	Canadian- born	Foreign- born	Canadian- born	Foreign- born
	%			
Reading skill level				
Very limited reading skills ²	11	32	12	24
Can use material that is simple	21	27	23	20
Can meet most everyday reading demands	68	41	65	56
Total	100	100	100	100
Total population (000s)	7,284	1,603	7,238	1,574

¹Includes only persons who reported having skill in one of Canada's official languages.

²Includes those who either have difficulty with any printed material or can use printed material only for limited purposes.

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Literacy Skills Used in Daily Activities, 1989.

LABOUR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

by Marcia Almey

Employment

One of the most dramatic changes in Canadian society in the past two decades has been the growth in the number of women who are employed.¹ In 1994, 52% of all women aged 15 and over had jobs, up from 42% in 1976. In contrast, the proportion of men with jobs fell sharply in the same period, dropping from 73% in 1976 to 65% in 1994. As a result, women represented 45% of all paid workers in 1994, up from 37% in 1976. (Table 6.1)

Provincial variations in employment

Women living in Ontario and the Western provinces are much more likely than those in Québec and the Atlantic provinces to be employed. In 1994, 59% of women in Alberta were employed, along with 54% of those in British Columbia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan, and 53% of those in Manitoba. In contrast, less than half of women were employed in Québec and the Atlantic provinces. In fact, just 38% of women in Newfoundland were employed in 1994, while the figures were 49% in Prince Edward Island, 48% in Québec, and 46% in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. (Table 6.2)

Age and employment

In the mid-1970s, women aged 15-24 were more likely than older women to be employed. At present, however, women between the ages of 25 and 54 have the highest employment levels. In 1994, 70% of women aged 25-44 and 66% of those aged 45-54 had jobs, compared with 52% of women aged 15-24 and 34% of those aged 54-65. (Table 6.3)

Women aged 25-54, though, are still considerably less likely than their male counterparts to be part of the employed work force. In 1994, 70% of 25-44-year-old women and 66% of those aged 45-54 were employed, compared with 83% of men in both age groups. However, these gaps have closed significantly since the mid-1970s, when women aged 25-44 and 45-54 were only about half as likely as their male counterparts to be employed.

The gap between the employment levels of women and men aged 55-64 has also narrowed over the past two decades. This is due to modest increases in employment among women in this age range, accompanied by a sharp decline in employment among men. However, women aged 55-64 were still considerably less likely than men in this age range to be employed in 1994: 34% versus 55%.

In contrast to older age groups, there is almost no difference in the percentages of women and men aged 15-24 with jobs. In 1994, slightly more than 50% of both women and men in this age range were working for pay or profit. This also represents a change from 1976, when young women were less likely than their male counterparts to be employed: 51% versus 59%.

Employment and presence of children

There has been particularly sharp growth in the employment rate of women with children in the last decade. Between 1981 and 1994, for example, the employment rate of women with children less than age 16 living at home rose from 50% to 63%. In comparison, the proportion of women with no children less than age 16 living at home with jobs only rose from 46% to 50% in the same period. (Table 6.4)

There have been substantial increases in the proportion of women with very young children who are employed. Indeed, by 1994, over half (56%) of women with children less than age 3 were employed, up from 39% in 1981. The employment rate of women whose youngest child was aged 3-5 also increased during this period, rising from 47% in 1981 to 59% in 1994.

Women with pre-school-aged children, though, are still less likely than those with school-aged children to be employed. Overall, in 1994, 57% of women with children under age 6 were employed, compared with 69% of those whose youngest child was aged 6-15.

Educational attainment and employment

The likelihood of women being employed increases dramatically with educational attainment. In 1994, 77% of women with a university degree worked for pay or profit, as did 65% of those with a certificate or diploma from a community college, 60% of those with some postsecondary training, and 57% of high school graduates. In contrast, the employment rate dropped to 36% for women who had attended but had not completed high school, and to just 17% for those who had not gone beyond Grade 8. (Table 6.5)

However, women with postsecondary training are still somewhat less likely than their male counterparts to be employed. In 1994, 77% of female university graduates, versus 82% of male graduates, were in the paid work force. Similarly, among those with a non-university certificate or diploma, 65% of women, compared with 76% of men, worked for pay or profit.

Employment of female lone parents²

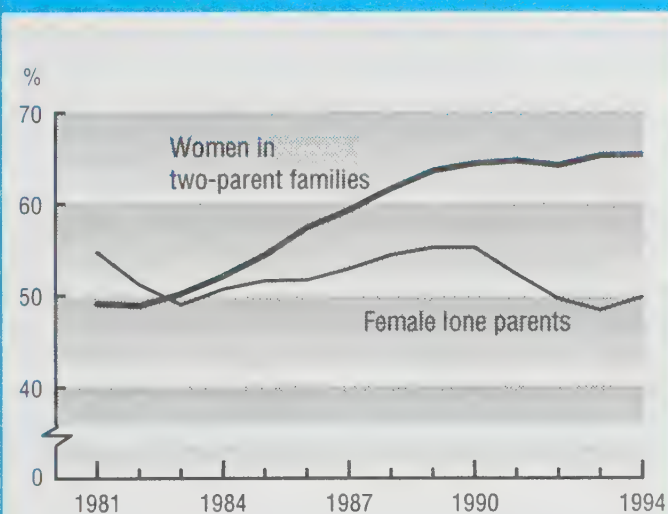
Female lone parents are considerably less likely than women in two-parent families with children to be employed. In 1994, 50% of female lone parents with children less than age 16 living at home were employed, compared with 65% of mothers in two-parent families. (Chart 6.1)

In fact, the proportion of female lone parents with jobs in 1994 was lower than in 1981: 50% versus 55%. This decline can be traced largely to substantial drops in employment levels among lone mothers during the recessions in both the early 1980s and the early 1990s, a trend contrary to that observed among women in two-parent families.

The employment of female lone parents is also very much influenced by the presence of young children. In 1994, just 27% of lone mothers with children under age 3 and 47% of those whose youngest child was aged 3-5 were employed, compared with 60% of those whose youngest child was aged 6-15. (Chart 6.2)

Chart 6.1

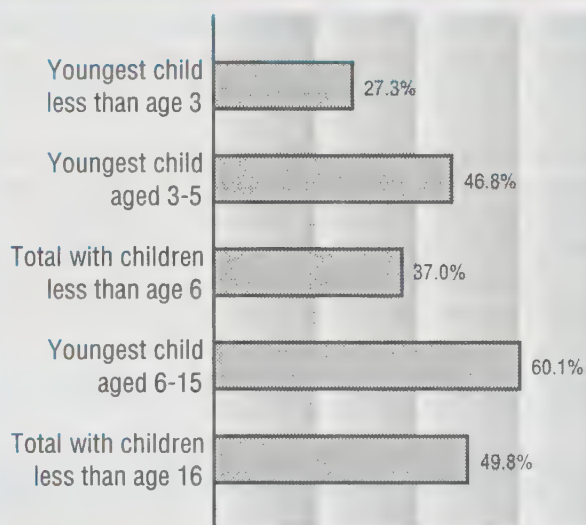
Employment of women with children, by family status, 1981-1994



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-529 and Labour Force Survey.

Chart 6.2

Employment of female lone parents, by age of youngest child, 1994



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-529.

Among those with lower educational qualifications, women are even less likely than men to have jobs. In 1994, women with less than a Grade 9 education were only half as likely as their male counterparts to be employed: 17% versus 34%. There was also a gap between the employment levels of women and men who had not completed secondary school: 36% versus 54%.

It is significant to note, however, that women aged 15-24 with postsecondary qualifications were just as likely as their male counterparts to be employed in 1994. In contrast, among those aged 25 and over who had university or other postsecondary qualifications in 1994, women were considerably less likely than men to be employed.

Part-time employment

Many women work part-time, that is, they work less than 30 hours a week. In 1994, 1.6 million women, 26% of all those with jobs, worked part-time. In comparison, just 9% of employed men held part-time jobs. In fact, the vast majority of all part-time jobs are held by women. In 1994, 69% of all part-time workers in Canada were female, a figure that has changed little over the past two decades. (Table 6.6)

Young women are more likely than other women to work part-time. In 1994, almost half (48%) of employed women aged 15-24 worked part-time, compared with 26% of

Employment equity

Because women in Canada are not a homogeneous group, the labour market experience of some groups of women differs from that of the female population as a whole. For example, as described in Chapter 11, Aboriginal women are considerably less likely than other women to be employed, while they have higher levels of unemployment.

Nonetheless, the right to equal employment opportunity is a fundamental human right in Canada. In an effort to achieve the goal of equal employment opportunities, the federal government passed the *Employment Equity Act* on August 13, 1986. Four designated groups were identified: women, Aboriginal peoples, persons in a visible minority, and persons with disabilities. Several programs have been established to identify and remove barriers to employment for these groups and to ensure that people in these groups achieve a level of employment equal to their representation in the work force, as defined by qualification, eligibility and geography.

Judge Rosalie Abella introduced the term "employment equity" in her 1984 Royal Commission Report, *Equality in Employment*. She defined employment equity as "a strategy designed to obliterate the present and residual effects of discrimination and to open equitably the competition for employment opportunities to those arbitrarily excluded."

In order to develop and evaluate employment equity programs, data are required on the size and characteristics of the population in each of the four designated groups. The Census of Canada is the primary data source for information on women, Aboriginal peoples, and persons in a visible minority, while the Health and Activity Limitation Survey provides data on persons with disabilities.

To produce employment equity data, each of the populations must be defined. While women are easily identified, population counts for persons in a visible minority, Aboriginal peoples and persons with disabilities are derived using responses to a number of questions on the Census. For example, persons in a visible minority are identified through a combination of questions on ethnic origin, place of birth and mother tongue, while Aboriginal peoples are identified through responses to questions on ethnic origin and registered Indian status. Persons with disabilities are identified through questions about limitations in daily activities and long-term disability. A series of screening questions related to disability are then asked to precisely identify persons with disabilities.

those aged 55-64, 24% of those aged 45-54, and 20% of those aged 25-44. Women in age groups over age 25, however, were far more likely than their male counterparts to work part-time in 1994, whereas there was a much smaller difference in the proportions of young women and men employed part-time that year. (Table 6.7)

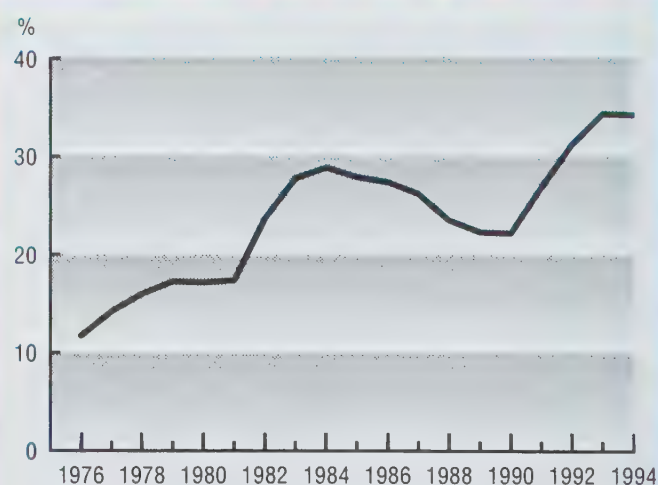
More involuntary part-time employment

A growing number of women work part-time because they can not find full-time employment. In 1994, over 500,000 women, 34% of all female part-time workers, indicated that they wanted full-time employment, but could only find part-time work. This has increased from 22% in 1989. (Chart 6.3)

At the same time, though, many women work part-time either because they do not want full-time employment or because part-time work is more appropriate for their personal situation. In 1994, 30% of women employed part-time reported they did not want full-time work, while 21% indicated they were going to school and 12% said they worked part-time because of personal or family responsibilities. (Table 6.8)

Chart 6.3

Percentage of women employed part-time who want full-time employment, 1976-1994



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-201 and 71-529.

The primary reasons women work part-time vary according to age. Women aged 25-44, for example, were more likely than other women to work part-time in 1994 because of personal or family responsibilities or because they could not find full-time work. In contrast, women aged 15-24 were most likely to work part-time because they were going to school, while those aged 45 and over were the most likely not to want full-time employment.

Industrial sector

The vast majority of employed women work in the service sector³ of the economy. In 1994, 86% of all employed women held jobs in this industrial sector, compared with 63% of employed men. In fact, women made up the majority (53%) of all service-sector workers in Canada in 1994. (Table 6.9)

In contrast, only 14% of employed women, versus 37% of men, worked in goods-producing industries⁴ in 1994. As a result, women represented only 24% of total employment in these industries that year, although this was up from around 20% in the mid-1970s.

Occupational distribution

The majority of employed women continue to work in occupations in which women have traditionally been concentrated. In 1994, 70% of all employed women were working in either teaching, nursing and health-related occupations, clerical positions, or sales and service

occupations. This compared with just 31% of employed men. However, women are currently less likely to be employed in these areas than they were in 1982, when 77% of employed women were concentrated in these occupations. (Table 6.10)

Women also account for a large share of total employment in each of these occupational groups. In 1994, 86% of nurses and health-related therapists, 80% of clerks, 63% of teachers, 56% of service personnel, and 46% of salespersons were women.

In recent years, however, women have increased their representation in several professional fields in which few women have worked in the past. For example, women made up 43% of those employed in management and administrative occupations in 1994, up from 29% in 1982.⁵ There has also been substantial growth in the number of women employed in diagnostic and treating positions in medicine and related health professions. Women, for example, made up 32% of all doctors and dentists in 1994, up from 18% in 1982. Similarly, 57% of professionals employed in social sciences or religion in 1994 were women, up from 43% in 1982.

On the other hand, women remain very much a minority among professionals employed in the natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics. In fact, just 19% of professionals in these occupations in 1994 were women, a figure which has changed little since 1982 (15%). In addition, it is unlikely that female representation in these

Women in agriculture

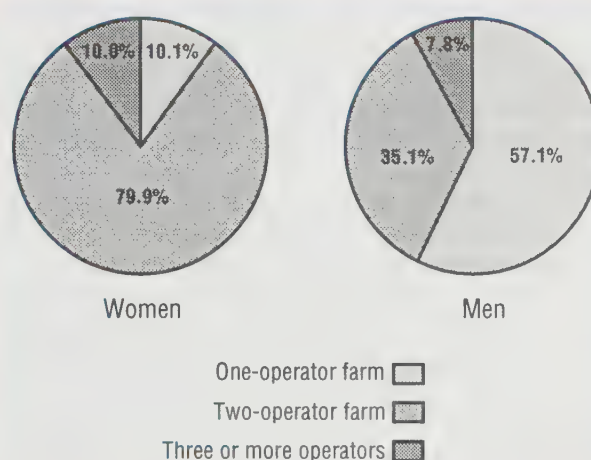
Women make up a substantial share of farm operators in Canada. In 1991, there were just over 100,000 female farm operators, representing 26% of all farm operators that year. (Table 6.11)

The majority of female farm operators share the responsibilities of management with at least one partner. In 1991, 80% of female operators were partners on two-operator farms, while 10% managed farms with three or more operators. On the other hand, 10% of women managed single-operator farms, compared with 57% of male farm operators. (Chart 6.4)

Female farm operators are considerably older, on average, than the overall female labour force in Canada. In 1991, 26% of female farmers were aged 55 and over, compared with only 9% of all female labour force participants. In contrast, only 22% of female farmers were under age 35, versus almost half (48%) of all female labour force participants. (Table 6.11)

Chart 6.4

Farm operators, by number of operators, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Agriculture.

occupations will increase in the near future, because, as reported in Chapter 5, women continue to account for relatively small shares of total university enrolments in these fields.

There are also relatively few women employed in most goods-producing occupations in which few women have traditionally worked. In 1994, just 19% of workers in manufacturing were women, as were 9% of those in transportation and 2% of those in construction. The representation of women in both transportation and construction occupations, however, has grown somewhat since 1982, while there has been no change in women's share of employment in manufacturing.

Women in unions

Employed women are less likely than their male counterparts to belong to a union. In 1992, 31% of all female workers, compared with 38% of men, were unionized. The percentage of employed female paid workers belonging to a union, though, has increased slightly in the last decade, rising from 29% in 1983 to 31% in 1992. In comparison, the unionization rate of men dipped from 40% to 38% in the same period. (Table 6.12)

However, because so many more women are now part of the paid work force, the actual number of women in unions rose sharply in the 1980s. By 1992, there were almost 1.6 million female union members, up 36% from 1983. In comparison, the number of male labour union members rose only 5% in the same period. Indeed, women accounted for 79% of the total growth in union membership in Canada between 1983 and 1992. As a result, women represented 41% of all union members in 1992, up from 35% in 1983.

Unemployment

Female labour force participants currently experience lower levels of unemployment⁶ than their male counterparts. In 1994, 656,000 women, 9.9% of all female labour force participants, were unemployed, compared with 10.8% of male labour force participants. (Table 6.13)

The fact that the unemployment rate is currently lower among women than men is a reversal of the situation in the late 1980s, when unemployment was higher among women. However, during the recessionary period of the early 1990s, unemployment increased more slowly among women than men. Between 1990 and 1993, for example, the number of unemployed women rose 35%, compared with a 47% increase among men.

Young most likely to be unemployed

Young women are considerably more likely than other women to be unemployed. In 1994, 14.3% of female labour force participants aged 15-24 were unemployed, compared with 9.4% of those aged 25-44 and 7.9% of those aged 45-64. (Table 6.14)

Young women, however, are considerably less likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed. In 1994, 14.3% of female labour force participants aged 15-24 were unemployed, compared with 18.5% of men in this age group. Women aged 25-44 and 45-64 were also less likely than men in these age ranges to be unemployed in 1994, although these differences were smaller than those reported for young women and men.

Provincial unemployment

Women in the Atlantic provinces and Québec have higher unemployment rates than those in Ontario and the Western provinces. In 1994, 19.3% of female labour force participants in Newfoundland were unemployed, along with 16.5% of those in Prince Edward Island, 13.0% in Nova Scotia, 11.3% in Québec, and 11.2% in New Brunswick. In the remaining provinces, the unemployment rate of women was around 9% in Ontario, Alberta, Manitoba, and British Columbia, and 7.1% in Saskatchewan. (Table 6.15)

Reasons unemployed left last job

The majority of unemployed women either lost, or were laid off from, their last job. In 1994, 59% of unemployed women fell into one of these categories. In comparison, 6% of unemployed women had left their last job because they were going to school, while another 6% had left because of personal or family responsibilities and 4% had left because of personal illness. (Table 6.16)

Unemployed women, though, are less likely than unemployed men to have lost, or been laid off from, their last job. In 1994, 59% of unemployed women, versus 70% of unemployed men, had lost their job or been laid off. On the other hand, unemployed women were more likely than their male counterparts to have left their last job because of personal or family responsibilities: 6% versus 1%. Unemployed women were also more likely to have been either new job-market entrants who had never worked or labour force re-entrants who had not worked within five years.

Unemployment Insurance recipients

The number of women receiving Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits has risen and fallen in response to changes in the overall unemployment rate. Between 1989 and 1992, for example, the average number of women receiving UI benefits per month rose 27%, from 485,900 to 616,400. In contrast, the number of male UI recipients rose 42% in the same period. As a result, women represented 44% of all UI recipients in 1992, down from 47% in the late 1980s. (Table 6.17)

The majority of women receiving Unemployment Insurance get regular benefits. In 1992, 76% of all female UI beneficiaries received regular benefits, while 15% received maternity/parental benefits, 5% received training benefits, and 3% got sickness benefits. At the same time, very

small percentages received work-sharing, job-creation, fishing, or self-employment assistance benefits. (Table 6.18)

Women accounted for almost all recipients (99%) of Unemployment Insurance maternity/parental benefits in 1992. As well, they made up the majority (59%) of those receiving sickness benefits. On the other hand, women accounted for only 40% of those receiving training benefits, 39% of those getting job-creation benefits, 32% of those involved in work-sharing arrangements, and 31% of those receiving self-employment assistance benefits.

Women not in labour force

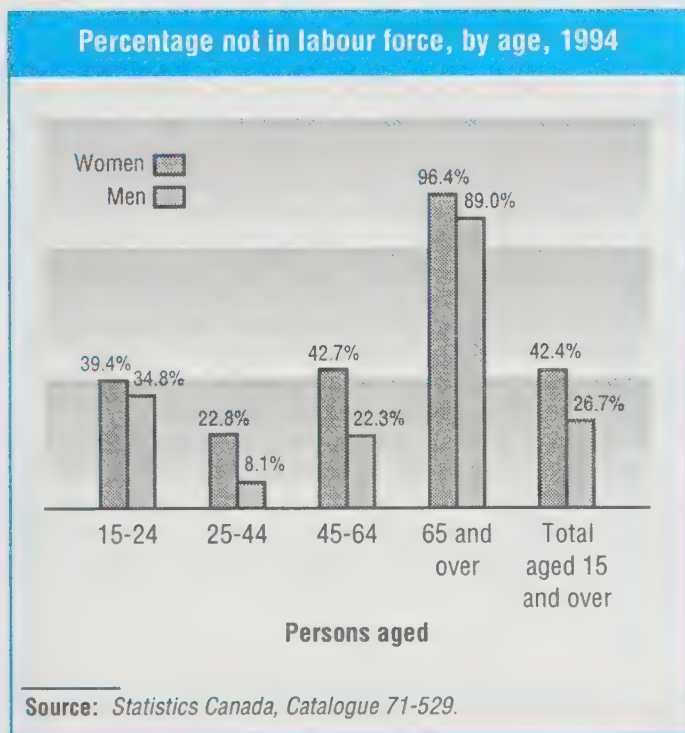
While the majority of women participate in the labour force, a substantial proportion do not. In 1994, 42% of women aged 15 and over were non-labour force participants, compared with 27% of men. (Chart 6.5)

Among women under age 65, those aged 45-64 and 15-24 are more likely than those aged 25-44 not to participate in the labour force. In 1994, 43% of women aged 45-64 and 39% of 15-24-year-olds were not labour force participants, compared with 23% of those aged 25-44. In all age ranges, though, women were more likely than their male contemporaries not to participate in the labour force.

Child care

There has been a substantial increase in the number of licensed child care spaces available to families in the last decade. By 1992, there were a total of over 350,000 licensed child care spaces in Canada, more than three times the number available in 1980. (Table 6.19)

Chart 6.5



The rate of increase in the number of child care spaces, however, has slowed in recent years. In the 1989-1992 period, the number of spaces increased 6% per year, compared with 11% per year between 1987 and 1989 and 19% per year from 1982 to 1987.

As well, the number of spaces currently available in licensed child care facilities represents only a portion of the child care requirements of Canadian families. In 1990, just 28% of all children under the age of 6 receiving care were in a regular licensed child care facility, while another 3% were in workplace centres. (Table 6.20)

The majority of children requiring care are looked after through arrangements other than regulated child care centres. In 1990, 43% of all children under age 6 in care were looked after at the home of a sitter or neighbour, while 25% received care at home from a sitter or nanny.

Relatives also play an important child care role. In 1990, 13% of all children in care went to a grandparent's home and 9% were cared for in their own home by a grandparent. Another 8% went to the home of other relatives, while the same percentage were cared for at home by a relative other than a grandparent.

Maternity benefits

Another important issue facing many employed women in Canada is the availability of maternity leave. In 1991, there were 164,000 ended maternity absences from work, almost double the number in 1980. In total, there were 3.9 ended maternity absences for every 100 employed women aged 15-44 in 1991, up from 2.7 in 1980. (Table 6.21)

The large majority of women who go on maternity leave are compensated. In 1991, 89% of women who had completed maternity absences had received some form of monetary compensation. This was up from 77% in 1980.

Unemployment Insurance benefits are the most common form of maternity leave compensation. In 1991, 77% of women on compensated maternity leave received only UI benefits, while another 17% received UI benefits accompanied by other forms of compensation, such as group insurance benefits or employer top-ups. Only 6% of beneficiaries received benefits exclusively from a source other than UI. (Table 6.22)

Absences from work

Women in the paid work force are considerably more likely than employed men to be absent from work because of personal or family responsibilities. During an average week in 1994, 4% of all women employed full-time lost some time from work for these reasons, compared with only 1% of their male counterparts. (Table 6.23)

As well, the average number of days of work lost annually because of personal or family responsibilities has jumped

Women whose main activity is homemaking

For many women, especially those with children, looking after the household is their main work activity. These women, however, are not currently included in labour force totals in national labour market surveys.

Among women whose main activity in 1992 was keeping house, those in two-parent families with pre-school-aged children spent 8.5 hours per day doing unpaid household work, while the figures were 7.8 hours for lone mothers with young children and around 7 hours per day for both women with a spouse and female lone parents with youngest child aged 5 and over. (Table 6.25)

As with employed women, domestic work activities account for the largest share of the unpaid household work time of women whose main activity is keeping house. In 1992, these women spent an average of around 4 hours per day on these activities.

Women keeping house also spend considerable amounts of time on primary child care activities. In 1992, female lone parents with children under age 5 devoted an average of 3.7 hours per day to child care in 1992, while the figure was 3.2 hours per day for their counterparts with a spouse. At the same time, among women with older children, both lone parents and those with spouses devoted over an hour per day, on average, to child care.

quite dramatically among women over the past decade. In 1994, female workers missed an average of 6 days due to these commitments, up from 4 days in 1985 and 3 days in 1980. Employed men, on the other hand, were absent from work for less than a day in 1994 because of personal or family responsibilities, a figure which has increased only marginally since 1980.

Still responsible for housework and child care

Even when employed, women are still largely responsible for looking after their homes and families. In 1992, employed women with a spouse and at least one child under age 5 spent 5.3 hours per day⁷ on household activities, including domestic work, primary child care, and shopping. At the same time, employed women with a spouse and youngest child aged 5 and over devoted 4.4 hours per day to these activities, while the figure for those with no children was 3.7 hours per day. In all cases, employed women devoted around two hours more per day than employed men to these activities. (Table 6.24)

Domestic work activities such as cooking, cleaning, and laundry make up the largest component of the total unpaid work time of employed women. In 1992, employed women with a spouse and children spent about 2.5 hours per day on domestic work activities, around an hour more per day than their male counterparts.

Employed women also devote considerable amounts of time to child care activities,⁸ although this varies with the age of the children. Employed women with a spouse and at least one child under age 5 spent 2.2 hours per day on primary child care activities, while mothers with older children spent 0.7 hours per day on primary child care. However, regardless of the age the children, the amount of time employed mothers devoted to child care was roughly double that of employed fathers.

¹ Employment figures in this chapter do not include women whose main activity is homemaking, as these women are not currently included in employment totals in national labour market surveys.

² For more information on this group, see **Lone-parent Families in Canada**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 89-522E; and "Left Behind: Lone Mothers in the Labour Market," by Susan Crompton, in **Perspectives on Labour and Income**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 75-001E, Summer 1994.

³ The service industries include trade; finance, insurance and real estate; business, educational, and health and social services; accommodation, and food and beverage services; other services; public administration; transportation; and communications.

⁴ The goods-producing industries include agriculture; resource-based industries such as mining, forestry and fishing; manufacturing; construction; and utilities.

⁵ It should be noted that as much as 40% of this change may be attributable to changes in occupational definitions. Even without this artificial boost, however, there has been considerable growth in women's employment in these areas.

⁶ People are considered unemployed if they are without work, but are available for work during the reference week and who either (1) have actively looked for work in the previous month; (2) are on temporary lay-off with an expectation of recall; or (3) have not actively looked for work, but have a new job to start within the next four weeks. The unemployment rate represents the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the relevant labour force.

⁷ Figures are averaged over a seven-day week.

⁸ It should be noted that the time use information discussed in this section includes only the respondent's main or primary activity at any one time. To the extent that many household activities such as child care are done simultaneously with other activities, it is likely that time devoted to these activities is underreported.

Marcia Almey is an analyst with the Target Groups Project.

Table 6.1
Total employment, 1976-1994

	Women		Men		Women as a % of total employment
	Total employment 000s	% of women employed	Total employment 000s	% of men employed	
1976	3,610	41.7	6,166	72.8	36.9
1977	3,740	42.3	6,238	72.1	37.4
1978	3,952	43.8	6,368	72.3	38.3
1979	4,174	45.3	6,587	73.4	38.8
1980	4,389	46.7	6,693	73.1	39.6
1981	4,595	48.0	6,803	73.1	40.3
1982	4,544	46.7	6,491	68.7	41.2
1983	4,635	47.0	6,471	67.6	41.7
1984	4,787	47.9	6,615	68.3	42.0
1985	4,978	49.2	6,764	69.0	42.4
1986	5,162	50.3	6,933	69.8	42.7
1987	5,347	51.5	7,075	70.4	43.0
1988	5,572	52.9	7,247	71.3	43.4
1989	5,730	53.7	7,356	71.4	43.8
1990	5,845	54.0	7,320	70.1	44.4
1991	5,812	52.8	7,104	66.9	45.0
1992	5,811	52.0	7,031	65.1	45.2
1993	5,889	51.7	7,126	64.9	45.2
1994	6,002	51.9	7,290	65.4	45.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-201 and 71-529.

Table 6.2
Percentage employed, by province, 1976-1994

	1976		1985		1990		1994	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
Newfoundland	27.6	58.1	33.7	51.0	40.2	53.1	37.8	47.5
Prince Edward Island	37.4	65.9	45.0	62.5	49.9	62.5	49.2	59.6
Nova Scotia	35.5	65.5	41.7	61.4	48.2	63.8	46.0	59.1
New Brunswick	34.2	62.7	40.2	57.1	45.6	60.4	45.8	58.0
Quebec	37.4	70.4	44.5	66.3	49.1	67.3	47.6	62.5
Ontario	45.5	75.4	53.6	73.0	57.9	73.3	53.8	66.6
Manitoba	44.0	74.1	51.3	70.6	55.2	70.5	53.3	68.0
Saskatchewan	41.1	75.4	50.5	72.0	53.9	70.7	53.7	69.1
Alberta	48.6	80.2	55.6	74.4	59.3	75.1	58.8	72.4
British Columbia	41.5	71.7	47.0	65.0	53.7	68.8	54.1	66.9
Canada	41.7	72.8	49.2	69.0	54.0	70.1	51.9	65.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-201 and 71-529.

Table 6.3
Percentage employed, by age, 1976-1994

	Persons aged							
	15-24		25-44		45-54		55-64	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
1976	50.6	59.4	49.9	91.0	45.6	89.1	30.3	73.6
1977	50.3	59.1	51.7	90.3	45.8	88.3	30.4	72.5
1978	51.5	59.7	54.3	90.3	47.6	88.4	30.9	72.3
1979	54.0	62.3	56.2	91.0	48.8	88.8	32.3	72.9
1980	55.4	62.5	58.6	90.4	50.6	88.7	32.0	72.8
1981	56.2	62.6	60.8	90.4	52.6	88.9	32.3	71.9
1982	53.0	55.3	60.2	85.8	52.0	85.7	31.7	68.4
1983	52.9	54.3	60.9	84.3	53.4	85.3	30.9	66.4
1984	54.0	56.8	62.5	84.8	54.0	84.4	30.9	65.5
1985	56.1	57.8	63.9	86.0	56.6	85.0	31.2	64.4
1986	57.5	60.2	66.6	86.6	56.3	86.2	31.0	63.6
1987	58.7	61.8	67.9	87.2	59.1	87.0	32.4	62.1
1988	59.9	63.5	69.8	88.2	61.9	87.1	33.3	62.4
1989	61.0	64.4	70.8	88.2	63.6	87.3	32.3	62.0
1990	59.4	61.5	71.8	86.9	64.3	85.9	33.5	61.0
1991	56.8	56.1	70.7	83.6	64.4	84.2	32.8	57.3
1992	54.0	53.4	69.5	81.5	65.3	82.8	33.2	56.0
1993	52.3	52.3	69.6	82.1	65.7	82.4	33.0	55.0
1994	51.9	53.2	70.0	82.7	66.0	82.8	34.3	54.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-201 and 71-529, and Labour Force Survey.

Table 6.4
Percentage of women with children employed, by age of youngest child, 1981-1994

	Youngest child less than age 3	Youngest child aged 3-5	Total with youngest child less than age 6	Youngest child aged 6-15	Total with children less than age 16	Total without children less than age 16 living at home
	%					
1981	39.4	47.1	42.4	56.6	49.7	45.8
1982	39.5	46.8	42.3	55.7	49.1	45.2
1983	42.0	48.1	44.4	55.4	50.0	45.3
1984	44.1	49.2	46.2	57.4	51.9	45.8
1985	46.7	52.1	48.9	59.1	54.1	46.4
1986	49.2	54.5	51.3	61.9	56.7	47.1
1987	50.3	56.4	52.8	64.0	58.4	47.9
1988	51.8	58.4	54.4	66.8	60.7	49.3
1989	53.0	59.5	55.6	69.1	62.5	49.8
1990	53.5	59.5	55.8	70.3	63.2	50.6
1991	54.4	60.1	56.5	69.0	63.0	49.7
1992	53.7	59.4	55.9	68.1	62.1	49.5
1993	54.6	59.6	56.5	68.7	62.7	49.6
1994	55.7	59.2	57.1	68.6	62.9	49.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-529, and Labour Force Survey.

Table 6.5
Percentage employed, by age and educational attainment, 1994

	Persons aged							
	15-24		25-44		45 and over		Total	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
Educational attainment								
Less than Grade 9	20.5	28.9	37.5	57.5	13.2	29.8	16.8	34.4
Some secondary school	35.8	40.7	50.9	74.1	26.5	47.4	36.0	53.7
High school graduate	61.6	67.2	68.8	85.1	39.9	55.9	56.6	72.3
Some postsecondary	57.3	56.6	69.9	78.9	44.6	58.4	59.9	66.5
Postsecondary certificate or diploma ¹	70.6	70.5	76.5	86.5	46.9	61.1	65.2	76.0
University degree	73.7	73.0	82.2	89.3	64.5	72.3	76.5	81.6
Total	51.9	53.2	70.0	82.7	33.9	51.8	51.9	65.4

¹Includes trades certificate.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-529, and Labour Force Survey.

Table 6.6
Part-time employment, 1976-1994

	Women employed part-time 000s	% of women employed part-time ¹	% of men employed part-time ¹	Women as a % of total part-time employment
1976	752	20.8	5.1	70.5
1977	815	21.8	5.4	70.7
1978	881	22.3	5.5	71.5
1979	954	22.9	5.7	71.7
1980	1,029	23.4	5.9	72.3
1981	1,095	23.8	6.3	71.9
1982	1,125	24.7	6.9	71.4
1983	1,199	25.9	7.7	70.8
1984	1,221	25.5	7.7	70.4
1985	1,293	26.0	7.6	71.4
1986	1,319	25.6	7.9	70.8
1987	1,334	25.0	7.6	71.4
1988	1,398	25.1	7.6	71.8
1989	1,402	24.4	7.6	71.4
1990	1,421	24.3	8.0	70.7
1991	1,481	25.4	8.8	70.3
1992	1,497	25.8	9.3	69.7
1993	1,546	26.3	9.8	68.9
1994	1,564	26.1	9.4	69.4

¹Expressed as a percentage of total employed.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-201 and 71-529.

Table 6.7
Percentage employed part-time, by age, 1976-1994

	Persons aged							
	15-24		25-44		45-54		55-64	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
1976	23.3	17.0	18.6	0.9	21.6	2.9	20.8	5.1
1977	24.1	17.8	19.4	1.1	23.1	3.1	21.8	5.4
1978	25.0	17.8	19.6	1.1	23.9	3.4	22.3	5.5
1979	26.2	18.2	19.8	1.1	24.4	3.6	22.9	5.7
1980	26.6	18.9	20.4	1.2	25.5	3.6	23.4	5.9
1981	27.6	20.4	20.6	1.4	25.8	3.7	23.8	6.3
1982	30.6	23.7	20.6	1.8	26.7	4.0	24.7	6.9
1983	32.9	25.8	21.6	2.3	27.3	4.7	25.9	7.7
1984	34.1	26.4	20.7	2.3	26.9	4.4	25.5	7.7
1985	35.2	26.6	21.2	2.3	26.9	4.4	26.0	7.6
1986	35.8	27.2	20.7	2.4	26.4	4.7	25.6	7.9
1987	36.2	26.9	19.9	2.3	25.6	4.6	25.0	7.6
1988	36.6	28.3	20.0	2.2	26.5	4.4	25.1	7.6
1989	37.6	28.8	19.2	2.1	25.2	4.8	24.4	7.6
1990	39.0	31.0	19.0	2.5	24.9	5.1	24.3	8.0
1991	43.0	35.2	19.9	3.1	24.9	5.6	25.4	8.8
1992	45.1	37.4	20.2	3.4	24.4	5.8	25.8	9.3
1993	47.9	39.2	20.4	4.1	24.5	5.8	26.3	9.8
1994	48.2	37.8	20.3	3.9	24.2	6.0	26.1	9.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 6.8
Reasons for part-time work, by age, 1994

	Women aged				Men aged			
	15-24	25-44	45 and over	Total	15-24	25-44	45 and over	Total
	%							
Personal/family responsibilities	1.9	22.7	7.1	12.3	--	--	--	0.9
Going to school	63.2	4.0	--	21.4	68.0	18.3	--	43.9
Could only find part-time work	28.0	40.0	32.2	34.3	26.3	68.0	35.1	37.4
Did not want full-time work	6.8	31.4	57.2	30.3	5.0	6.5	51.4	14.2
Other reasons	--	2.0	3.0	1.7	--	5.2	11.2	3.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed part-time (000s)	486	683	395	1,564	403	153	134	690
% employed part-time ¹	48.2	20.3	24.2	26.1	37.8	3.9	6.0	9.4

¹Expressed as a percentage of total employed.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-529.

Table 6.9
Distribution of employment, by industry, 1976-1994

	Women		Men		Women as a % of total employment	
	Service	Goods-producing	Service	Goods-producing	Service	Goods-producing
	%					
1976	80.6	19.4	55.0	45.0	46.2	20.2
1977	81.6	18.4	56.0	44.0	46.6	20.1
1978	81.6	18.4	55.8	44.2	47.6	20.4
1979	81.0	19.0	55.8	44.2	47.9	21.4
1980	81.2	18.8	56.2	43.8	48.7	22.0
1981	81.5	18.5	56.1	43.9	49.5	22.2
1982	82.6	17.4	58.2	41.8	49.8	22.6
1983	82.6	17.4	59.3	40.7	49.9	23.5
1984	82.7	17.3	58.8	41.2	50.4	23.3
1985	83.3	16.8	59.4	40.6	50.8	23.3
1986	83.2	16.8	59.9	40.1	50.8	23.8
1987	83.8	16.3	59.6	40.4	51.5	23.3
1988	83.6	16.4	59.2	40.8	52.1	23.6
1989	83.9	16.1	59.1	40.9	52.5	23.4
1990	84.6	15.4	60.2	39.8	52.9	23.6
1991	85.3	14.7	61.6	38.4	53.1	23.9
1992	85.7	14.3	62.7	37.3	53.1	24.1
1993	86.1	13.9	63.1	36.9	53.0	23.8
1994	86.1	13.9	62.8	37.2	53.0	23.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 6.10
Distribution of employment, by occupation, 1982 and 1994

	1982			1994		
	Women	Men	Women as a % of employment	Women	Men	Women as a % of employment
			%			
Managerial/administrative	6.0	10.2	29.3	12.7	13.8	43.1
Professional:						
Natural sciences/ engineering/mathematics	1.3	5.3	14.9	1.7	5.9	19.2
Social sciences/religion	2.0	1.8	42.7	3.3	2.1	56.8
Teaching	6.1	3.0	58.9	6.9	3.3	63.4
Doctors/dentists	0.3	0.8	18.3	0.5	0.9	32.1
Nursing/therapy/other health related	8.8	1.1	84.7	9.1	1.2	86.1
Artistic/literary/recreational	1.4	1.6	38.6	2.2	2.1	46.4
Clerical	34.2	6.4	78.8	26.8	5.4	80.2
Sales	10.1	10.8	39.7	10.1	9.9	45.7
Service	18.1	10.7	54.2	17.1	11.0	56.2
Primary	2.8	8.0	19.6	2.1	6.4	21.3
Manufacturing	6.4	19.8	18.4	4.8	17.3	18.5
Construction	0.2	9.3	1.4	0.3	9.3	2.4
Transportation	0.5	6.0	5.9	0.8	6.2	9.2
Material handling/other crafts	1.8	5.2	19.3	1.6	5.0	21.0
Total	100.0	100.0	41.2	100.0	100.0	45.2
Total employed (000s)	4,544	6,491	...	6,002	7,290	...

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 6.11
Farm operators and total labour force participants, by age, 1991

	Women		Men	
	Farm operators	Labour force participants	Farm operators	Labour force participants
				%
Persons aged				
Under 35	21.7	48.1	19.3	45.2
35-44	27.7	26.8	24.3	25.7
45-54	24.4	16.3	22.3	17.1
55 and over	26.1	8.8	34.0	12.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number (000s)	100.7	6,517.1	290.0	7,957.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-324, and Census of Agriculture.

Table 6.12
Unionized workers, 1983-1992

	Women		Men		Women as a % of total union members ¹
	000s	% of paid female workers unionized	000s	% of paid male workers unionized	
1983	1,175	28.5	2,160	39.9	35.2
1984	1,210	28.4	2,169	39.7	35.8
1985	1,253	28.2	2,181	38.7	36.4
1986	1,301	28.4	2,250	39.0	36.6
1987	1,353	28.1	2,261	38.0	37.4
1988	1,406	28.3	2,311	38.1	37.8
1989	1,511	29.4	2,314	38.0	39.5
1990	1,552	30.3	2,288	38.6	40.4
1991	1,575	30.8	2,254	38.8	41.1
1992	1,596	31.2	2,270	38.2	41.3

¹Excludes pensioners, unemployed and members living in the Territories.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-202.

Table 6.13
Unemployment, 1976-1994

	Women		Men	
	Total unemployed	Unemployment rate	Total unemployed	Unemployment rate
	000s	%	000s	%
1976	332	8.4	422	6.4
1977	388	9.4	494	7.3
1978	421	9.6	523	7.6
1979	399	8.7	471	6.7
1980	401	8.4	499	6.9
1981	415	8.3	519	7.1
1982	551	10.8	812	11.1
1983	605	11.6	899	12.2
1984	612	11.3	838	11.2
1985	594	10.7	787	10.4
1986	560	9.8	723	9.4
1987	546	9.3	662	8.6
1988	503	8.3	578	7.4
1989	487	7.8	578	7.3
1990	515	8.1	649	8.1
1991	626	9.7	866	10.9
1992	674	10.4	966	12.1
1993	697	10.6	952	11.8
1994	656	9.9	885	10.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-201 and 71-529.

Table 6.14
Unemployment rates, by age, 1976-1994

	Persons aged							
	15-24		25-44		45-64		Total ¹	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
1976	12.0	13.1	7.6	4.7	5.2	3.8	8.4	6.4
1977	13.7	14.8	8.1	5.4	6.1	4.6	9.4	7.3
1978	13.8	14.9	8.6	5.6	6.2	5.0	9.6	7.6
1979	12.6	13.1	7.7	5.0	5.6	4.2	8.7	6.7
1980	12.5	13.6	7.0	5.3	5.7	4.2	8.4	6.9
1981	12.1	13.9	7.5	5.4	5.1	4.3	8.3	7.1
1982	15.9	20.9	9.6	9.2	7.1	6.8	10.8	11.1
1983	16.8	22.2	10.4	10.5	7.9	7.7	11.6	12.2
1984	16.0	19.2	10.5	9.9	8.1	7.6	11.3	11.2
1985	14.4	18.0	10.2	9.1	7.7	7.4	10.7	10.4
1986	13.5	16.3	9.2	8.4	7.3	6.4	9.8	9.4
1987	12.3	14.6	8.7	7.6	7.5	6.1	9.3	8.6
1988	10.9	12.8	8.0	6.6	6.6	5.4	8.3	7.4
1989	10.0	12.3	7.9	6.6	5.9	5.4	7.8	7.3
1990	11.3	13.9	7.8	7.6	6.1	5.8	8.1	8.1
1991	13.3	18.8	9.3	10.2	7.9	7.5	9.7	10.9
1992	15.1	20.2	9.7	11.5	8.3	8.6	10.4	12.1
1993	14.9	20.2	10.1	11.0	8.8	8.7	10.6	11.8
1994	14.3	18.5	9.4	10.1	7.9	8.3	9.9	10.8

¹Includes those aged 65 and over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 71-201 and 71-529, and Labour Force Survey.

Table 6.15
Unemployment rates, by age and province, 1994

	Persons aged							
	15-24		25-44		45-64		Total ¹	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
Newfoundland	25.9	33.7	18.7	20.8	--	14.5	19.3	21.3
Prince Edward Island	--	--	--	--	--	--	16.5	17.6
Nova Scotia	18.9	24.4	12.8	12.3	8.9	9.4	13.0	13.5
New Brunswick	15.9	22.6	11.0	12.8	--	9.4	11.2	13.5
Quebec	15.3	19.7	10.6	12.3	10.5	10.7	11.3	12.9
Ontario	14.2	18.4	8.8	9.1	6.7	7.3	9.2	9.9
Manitoba	13.9	18.1	7.9	8.6	7.3	5.9	8.9	9.5
Saskatchewan	11.7	14.0	6.9	6.4	--	4.8	7.1	7.0
Alberta	12.7	13.4	8.2	7.4	8.2	6.8	9.1	8.2
British Columbia	12.1	17.3	8.5	9.3	6.2	8.1	8.5	10.2

¹Includes those aged 65 and over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-529.

Table 6.16
Unemployed, by reason for leaving last job, 1994

	Women		Men	
	000s	%	000s	%
Own illness	23	3.5	29	3.3
Personal/family responsibilities	38	5.8	10	1.1
Going to school	38	5.8	48	5.4
Lost job/laid off	386	58.8	622	70.3
Retired	4	0.6	8	0.9
Other reasons	90	13.7	107	12.1
Had not worked in last 5 years	41	6.3	21	2.4
Never worked	36	5.4	39	4.4
Total	656	100.0	885	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 71-529.

Table 6.17
Unemployment Insurance beneficiaries, 1981-1992

	Women	Men	Women as a % of total beneficiaries
	000s		
1981	308.4	411.9	42.8
1982	443.0	694.7	38.9
1983	493.2	754.8	39.5
1984	496.4	698.0	41.6
1985	496.3	648.9	43.3
1986	482.5	613.0	44.0
1987	473.6	559.4	45.8
1988	476.2	538.4	46.9
1989	485.9	543.8	47.2
1990	510.6	610.3	45.6
1991	596.2	769.1	43.7
1992	616.4	771.9	44.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 73-202S.

Table 6.18
Unemployment Insurance beneficiaries, by type of benefit, 1992

Type of benefit	Women		Men		Women as a % of total beneficiaries
	000s	%	000s	%	
Regular	466.1	75.6	682.0	88.4	40.6
Maternity/parental	90.8	14.7	1.0	0.1	98.9
Training	28.7	4.7	43.2	5.6	40.0
Sickness	19.0	3.1	13.1	1.7	59.2
Work sharing	7.4	1.2	15.9	2.1	32.0
Job creation	2.1	0.3	3.3	0.4	38.6
Fishing	2.0	0.3	13.0	1.7	13.5
Self-employment assistance	0.2	--	0.4	0.1	31.3
Total	616.4	100.0	771.9	100.0	44.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 73-202S.

Table 6.19
Licensed day care spaces, by type, 1971-1992

	Regular day care	Family day care	Total
1971	16,791	600	17,391
1975	65,281	4,671	69,952
1980	98,238	10,903	109,141
1982	109,535	14,427	123,962
1983	123,292	15,778	139,070
1984	149,965	21,689	171,654
1985	169,751	22,623	192,374
1986	197,802	22,715	220,517
1987	216,685	26,860	243,545
1988	232,787	30,839	263,626
1989	259,891	38,192	298,083
1990	282,465	38,159	320,624
1991	292,338	40,744	333,082
1992	302,790	47,890	350,680

Source: Health and Welfare Canada, Status of Day Care in Canada.

Table 6.20
Families with children under age 6 receiving child care, by type of care, 1990

	Families with children less than age 6	
	000s	%
Receiving child care outside the home in		
Workplace day care	43.6	3
Non-work day care	375.4	28
Sitter or neighbour's home	566.6	43
Grandparent's home	169.1	13
Another relative's home	108.1	8
Other arrangement	21.1	2
Receiving care in home of		
Grandparent	123.2	9
Another relative	102.8	8
Sitter or nanny	326.1	25
Other arrangement	26.0	2

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1990.

Table 6.21
Maternity absences from work, 1980-1991

	Total ended maternity absences	Ended maternity absences as a % of employed women aged 15-44	% of ended maternity absences compensated
1980	87,000	2.7	76.6
1981	110,000	3.2	80.7
1982	113,000	3.4	84.8
1983	116,000	3.4	87.1
1984	118,000	3.3	88.5
1985	142,000	3.9	90.7
1986	137,000	3.6	92.0
1987	153,000	3.9	92.2
1988	117,000	2.9	85.7
1989	164,000	3.9	90.2
1990	163,000	3.8	86.6
1991	164,000	3.9	89.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Absence from Work Survey.

Table 6.22

Percentage of ended maternity absences compensated, by type of compensation, 1980-1991

	Unemployment Insurance only	Unemployment Insurance plus other	Total Unemployment Insurance ¹	Other only	Total
			%		
1980	81.3	6.7	88.0	12.0	100.0
1981	82.3	7.9	90.1	9.9	100.0
1982	76.2	11.3	87.5	12.4	100.0
1983	77.2	11.9	89.1	10.9	100.0
1984	80.4	13.6	94.0	6.0	100.0
1985	76.1	14.3	90.4	9.6	100.0
1986	78.4	12.6	91.0	8.9	100.0
1987	78.5	13.2	91.7	8.3	100.0
1988	76.7	14.2	91.0	9.0	100.0
1989	78.2	15.4	93.6	6.4	100.0
1990	78.6	15.0	93.7	6.3	100.0
1991	76.9	17.0	93.9	6.1	100.0

¹Includes maternity absences compensated solely by Unemployment Insurance, as well as those compensated by both Unemployment Insurance and an additional source.

Source: Statistics Canada, Absence from Work Survey.

Table 6.23

Absences from work due to personal or family responsibilities, 1980-1994

	Women		Men	
	Average days lost per year	% losing time per week	Average days lost per year	% losing time per week
1980	2.9	2.1	0.7	1.1
1981	3.1	2.2	0.7	1.1
1982	3.0	2.2	0.7	1.1
1983	3.8	2.5	0.8	1.2
1984	4.1	2.7	0.8	1.2
1985	4.0	2.7	0.8	1.1
1986	4.3	2.7	0.8	1.1
1987	4.2	2.6	0.8	1.1
1988	4.7	3.0	0.9	1.3
1989	5.1	3.3	0.9	1.4
1990	5.3	3.3	0.9	1.3
1991	5.6	3.3	0.9	1.1
1992	5.9	3.2	0.8	1.0
1993	6.5	3.5	0.9	1.1
1994	6.4	3.6	0.9	1.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey.

Table 6.24**Average time spent on selected activities by employed women and men, by family status, 1992**

	Total productive activity ¹	Paid work/ education	Total unpaid work ²	Domestic work	Primary child care	Shopping/ services	Personal care	Free time
Hours per day ³								
Those w/children under age 5 ⁴								
Female lone parents	9.3	4.8	4.5	1.6	1.8	0.8	10.0	4.8
Women w/spouse	10.6	5.4	5.3	2.4	2.2	0.6	10.0	3.4
Men w/spouse	10.2	6.8	3.4	1.4	1.2	0.6	9.6	4.1
Those w/children aged 5 and over ⁵								
Female lone parents	9.6	5.6	3.9	2.0	0.7	1.0	10.2	4.2
Women w/spouse	9.9	5.4	4.4	2.6	0.7	0.8	10.2	4.0
Men w/spouse	9.3	6.6	2.8	1.5	0.3	0.6	9.9	4.8
Those w/o children								
Women w/spouse	9.9	6.3	3.7	2.6	0.1	0.9	10.3	3.8
Men w/spouse	8.9	7.3	1.6	1.0	0.0	0.6	10.0	5.1

¹Includes paid work, education and unpaid work; sub-totals may not add due to rounding.²Includes domestic work, primary child care, and shopping and services.³Figures averaged over a seven-day week.⁴At least one child under age 5.⁵Youngest child aged 5 and over.**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992.**Table 6.25****Average time spent on selected activities by women keeping house, by family status, 1992**

	Total productive activity ¹	Paid work/ education	Total unpaid work ²	Domestic work	Primary child care	Shopping/ services	Personal care	Free time
Hours per day ³								
Those w/children under age 5 ⁴								
Female lone parents	8.0	0.1	7.8	3.2	3.7	0.6	10.0	6.1
Women w/spouse	9.1	0.6	8.5	3.9	3.2	0.9	10.4	4.5
Those w/children aged 5 and over ⁵								
Female lone parents	7.3	0.1	7.1	4.2	1.4	1.0	10.9	5.8
Women w/spouse	7.8	0.8	7.0	4.2	1.2	1.1	10.7	5.5
Those w/o children								
Women living alone	4.4	0.1	4.3	3.4	...	0.8	11.9	7.7
Women w/spouse	6.4	0.2	6.2	4.5	...	1.2	10.6	7.0

¹Includes paid work, education and unpaid work; sub-totals may not add due to rounding.²Includes domestic work, primary child care, and shopping and services.³Figures averaged over a seven-day week.⁴At least one child under age 5.⁵Youngest child aged 5 and over.**Source:** Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1992.

INCOME AND EARNINGS

by Nancy Ghalam

Women's incomes lower

Women generally have lower incomes than men. In 1993, the average annual pre-tax income of women aged 15 and over from all sources¹ was \$16,500, just 58% the average income of men (\$28,600). (Table 7.1)

The lower average income of women relative to that of men may be affected by factors such as the lower average earnings of employed women, and by the fact that women are more likely than men to have no source of personal income. In 1993, for example, 12% of all women aged 15 and over had no income at all, compared with only 5% of men. (Chart 7.1)

Chart 7.1

Percentage of persons aged 15 and over with no source of personal income, 1993



Income by age

Women between the ages of 25 and 54 have higher incomes than women in other age groups. In 1993, the average income of women aged 35-44 was \$21,500, while it was \$20,200 for those aged 45-54 and \$18,800 among women aged 25-34. In comparison, the figures were around \$15,000 for both women aged 55-59 and those aged 65 and over, \$12,300 for those in the 60-64 age range, and just \$7,400 for women under age 25. (Table 7.1)

At all ages, though, women's incomes are lower than those of men. In fact, in 1993, the average income of women was only 39% that of their male contemporaries for 60-64-year-olds and 42% for 55-59-year-olds. For other age groups, women's income as a percentage of that of men ranged from around 50% for those aged 45-54 to 85% for those under age 25.

Income and family status

The income situation of women varies greatly depending on their family status. Most notably, lone-parent families headed by women have by far the lowest incomes of all family types. In 1993, families headed by female lone parents under age 65 had an average income of \$23,300, only 39% as much as non-elderly two-spouse families with children (\$59,700), and just 66% that of lone-parent families headed by men (\$35,400). (Table 7.2)

Income of unattached women²

Unattached women tend to have lower incomes than their male counterparts. The average income of unattached women aged 15 and over was \$20,600 in 1993, compared with \$26,100 for unattached men. (Table 7.3)

Unattached women between the ages of 25 and 54 have higher average incomes than either their younger or older counterparts. In 1993, unattached women aged 35-44 had an average income of \$29,200, while the figures were \$27,100 for 45-54-year-olds and \$25,000 for those aged 25-34. In comparison, the average income of unattached women in other age groups ranged from \$20,500 among those aged 55-59 to just \$13,600 among those under age 25.

The incomes of unattached women are lower than those of their male counterparts in all age categories, although the gap is relatively small for those aged 25-44. In 1993, for example, the incomes of unattached women aged 25-34 were 97% of those of unattached men in this age range, while the ratio for those in the 35-44 age range was 96%. For other groups, the figure ranged from 64% for 60-64-year-olds to 85% for those under age 25.

Women with low incomes

Women make up more than half of the total population with low incomes. In fact, in 1993, 56% of all persons living in low-income situations were women. That year, 2.8 million women, 20% of the total female population, were living in low-income situations, compared with 16% of the male population. (Table 7.4)

As well, the proportion of women living in low-income situations rose during the recession in the early 1990s. In 1993, 20% of all women had low incomes, up from 16% in 1989. The current figure, however, is still slightly lower than it was during the recession in the early 1980s.

The higher overall incidence of low income among women is largely attributable to the fact that several specific groups of women, including unattached seniors, young unattached women, and female lone parents, are particularly likely to have incomes which fall below the Low Income Cut-offs.

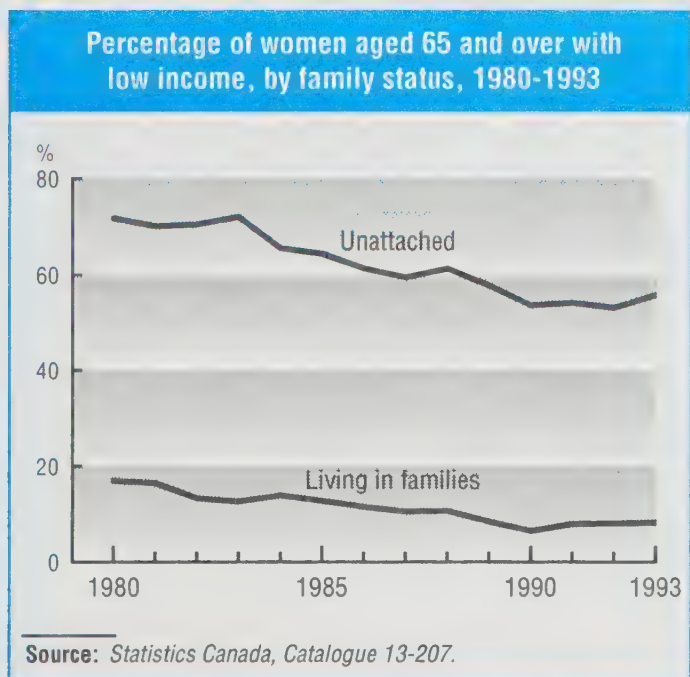
Unattached senior women with low income

The majority of unattached senior women have low incomes. In 1993, 414,000 unattached women aged 65 and over, 56% of all senior women living alone or with unrelated persons, had low incomes. This compared with 38% of unattached senior men and 40% of unattached women under age 65. (Table 7.5)

Unattached senior women are also considerably more likely than senior women living in families to have low incomes. In 1993, 56% of unattached women aged 65 and over had low incomes, compared with just 8% of senior women living in families. (Chart 7.2)

The incidence of low income among unattached senior women, however, has declined in the last decade. Indeed, the percentage of unattached women aged 65 and over with low incomes fell from 72% in 1980 to 53% in 1992. However, in 1993, this figure rose slightly to 56%.

Chart 7.2



There has also been a decline in the incidence of low income among senior women living in families over the past decade. In 1993, 8% of women aged 65 and over lived in low-income families, less than half the figure recorded in 1980 (17%).

Low income among unattached young women

Young women who live alone or with unrelated persons are more likely than any other group of women to have low incomes. In fact, in 1993, 64% of unattached women aged 15-24 had incomes which fell below the Low Income Cut-offs. At the same time, almost half (49%) of unattached women aged 55-64 also had low incomes. In comparison, about 30% of unattached women aged 25-44 and 36% of those aged 45-54 lived with low incomes that year. (Table 7.5)

The incidence of low income was also somewhat higher for unattached women than for unattached men in most age groups under age 65. The exception was women aged 25-34, who were slightly less likely than their male counterparts to have low incomes.

Lone-parent families headed by women with low income

Lone-parent families headed by women are also especially likely to have low incomes. In 1993, 60% of all families headed by lone-parent mothers had incomes which fell below the Low Income Cut-offs. In comparison, just 13% of non-elderly two-parent families with children and 31% of male lone-parent families had low incomes in 1993. (Table 7.6)

Unlike senior women, however, there has been little overall improvement in the incidence of low income among female-headed lone-parent families in recent years. In fact, the percentage of these women with low incomes was only marginally lower in 1993 (60%) than it was in 1984 (62%).

Over the past decade, the incidence of low income for lone-parent families headed by women has tended to rise and fall depending on overall economic conditions. For example, the incidence of low income among lone-parent families headed by women reached a high of 62% in 1984, reflecting the effects of the recession of the early 1980s. By 1989, the figure had dropped to a low of 53%, but then climbed back to 60% in 1993 following the economic downturn of the early 1990s.

As well, lone-parent families headed by women are home to a disproportionate share of all children living in low-income situations. Although just 14% of all children under age 18 lived in female-headed lone-parent families in 1993, children in these families accounted for 42% of all children in low-income families that year. (Chart 7.3)

The Low Income Cut-offs

Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs are used to classify families and unattached individuals into "low-income" and "other" groups. Families or individuals are classified as "low income" if they spend, on average, at least 20 percentage points more of their pre-tax income than the Canadian average on food, shelter, and clothing. Using 1992 as the base year, families and individuals with incomes below the Low Income Cut-offs usually spend more than 54.7% of their income on these items and are considered to be in straitened circumstances. The number of people in the family and the size of the urban or rural area where the family resides are also taken into consideration.

Note, however, that Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs are not official poverty lines. They have no officially recognized status as such, nor does Statistics Canada promote their use as poverty lines.

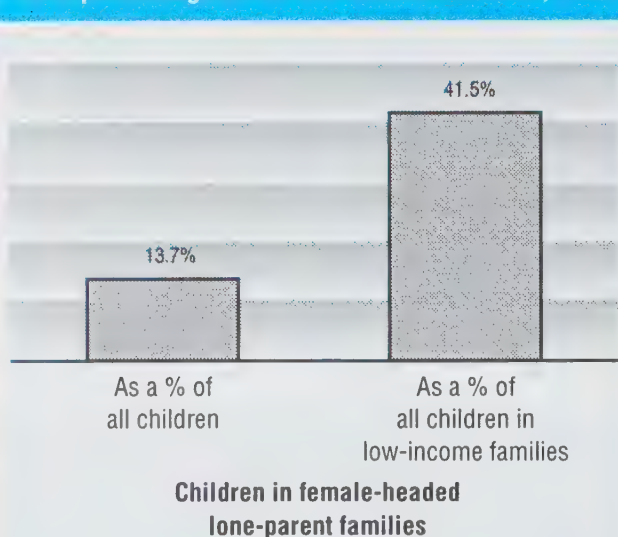
Low Income Cut-offs (1992 base) of family units, 1993

	Size/type of area of residence				
	Urban areas by population				Rural areas
	500,000 and over	100,000- 499,999	30,000- 99,999	Less than 30,000	
Number of persons in family	\$				
1	16,482	14,137	14,039	13,063	11,390
2	20,603	17,671	17,549	16,329	14,238
3	25,623	21,978	21,825	20,308	17,708
4	31,017	26,604	26,419	24,583	21,435
5	34,671	29,739	29,532	27,479	23,961
6	38,326	32,874	32,645	30,375	26,487
7 or more	41,981	36,009	35,758	33,271	29,014

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Chart 7.3

Children¹ in lone-parent families headed by women as a percentage of all low-income children, 1993



¹ Includes children under age 18 living at home.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-569.

Average earnings still lower

The average earnings of employed women are substantially lower than those of men. In 1993, women employed on a full-time, full-year basis³ earned an average of \$28,400, just 72% the figure for their male counterparts. (Table 7.7)

The gap between the earnings of women and men, however, has closed somewhat in recent years. Women's full-time, full-year earnings were 72% those of men in 1993, up from 68% in 1990 and around 64% in the early 1980s.

The narrowing of the gap between the earnings of women and men in recent years can be attributed to both increases in the earnings of women and decreases in the earnings of men. Between 1989 and 1993, for example, the earnings of women employed full-time, full-year rose almost 8%, once the effects of inflation were accounted for, whereas men's earnings declined about 2%.

Earnings and education

Women with a university degree earn considerably more than women with other levels of education. Female university graduates working full-time, full-year earned an

average of \$40,700 in 1993, compared with \$28,200 for those with a non-university postsecondary certificate or diploma and about \$25,000 for both high school graduates and those with some other postsecondary training. Women without a high school diploma earned only about \$20,000 that year. (Table 7.8)

However, at all levels of educational attainment, women's earnings are lower than those of men. Even female university graduates employed full-time, full-year only earned 75% as much as their male colleagues in 1993,⁴ while the figure was 74% among women with a non-university postsecondary certificate and 72% among high school graduates.

The earnings ratio was even lower for those with other levels of education. In fact, the earnings of women as a percentage of those of men were only 62% among those with some secondary schooling and 69% among those with less than Grade 9. As well, women with some postsecondary training earned just 64% as much as men with the same level of education.

Earnings and occupation

Women in professional and related occupations have considerably higher incomes than those in other occupational groups. For instance, in 1993, female teachers employed full-time, full-year earned \$40,300 on average, while the figure was around \$35,000 for managers/administrators and other professionals. In contrast, the average annual earnings of women employed full-time, full-year in non-professional occupations ranged from just over \$25,000 for those employed in clerical and processing jobs to only \$13,100 for those in agriculture. (Table 7.9)

Women's earnings as a percentage of those of men are also generally higher among professionals than among those in other occupational groups. Nonetheless, women's earnings are significantly lower than those of men in all occupational categories. In 1993, the earnings ratio for women and men employed full-time, full-year was 79% among teachers, 78% among professionals in artistic/recreational jobs, and 76% among those in the natural sciences. At the same time, though, the figures were only 71% among women employed in social sciences and religion, 67% among managers and administrators, and 60% for those employed in medicine and health occupations.⁵

In contrast, the female-to-male earnings ratio was less than 70% in all non-professional occupations, with the exception of the clerical group (79%). In fact, the earnings ratio was only 64% among transport equipment operators, sales persons, and agricultural workers, 63% among those employed in manufacturing, and 60% for service workers.

Earnings and age

Women between the ages of 35 and 54 have higher average earnings than other women. In 1993, women aged 35-44 and 45-54 employed full-time, full-year had average earnings of over \$30,000, compared with around \$27,000 for those aged 55-64 and 25-34 and just \$21,000 for 15-24-year-olds. (Table 7.10)

However, the earnings of women compared to those of men tend to be higher in younger age groups. In 1993, the female-to-male earnings ratio was 91% for those aged 15-24 working full-time, full-year, whereas the figure was 76% for women aged 25-34, 72% for 35-44-year-olds, 67% for those aged 45-54, and 69% among those aged 55 and over.

Earnings and marital status

Overall, there is little variation in the earnings of women regardless of their marital status. In 1993, both single and married women who were employed full-time, full-year earned about \$28,300, while women of other marital status earned \$29,300. (Table 7.10)

However, the difference between the earnings of single and married women is quite large for certain age groups. For example, single women aged 35-44 who worked full-time, full-year in 1993 earned an average of \$35,100, while those aged 45-54 made \$36,100. In both instances, these single women earned about \$6,000 more than their married counterparts.

Marital status also has an impact on the female-to-male earnings ratio. In 1993, the earnings of single women employed full-time, full-year were 96% those of their male counterparts, whereas the earnings of both married and other women were only about 70% those of men.

Once again, though, the earnings ratio for those who are single or married varies with age. In fact, single women aged 35-44 employed full-time, full-year earned slightly more than their male counterparts in 1993: \$35,100 versus \$34,500. In contrast, married women in this age range earned only 68% as much as married men: \$29,300 versus \$43,000.

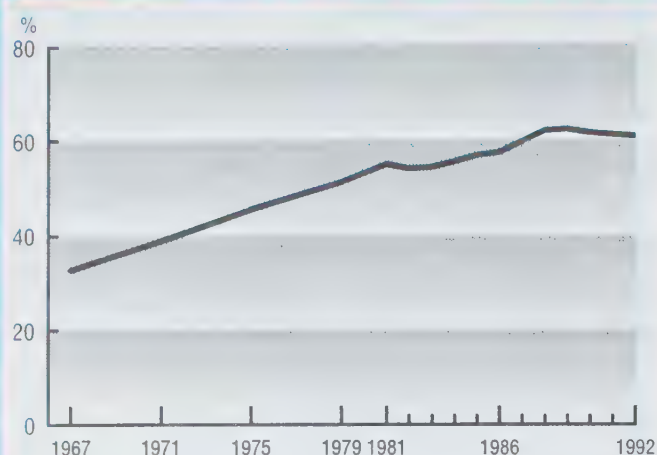
Earnings of wives in dual-earner families

The influx of married women into the labour force over the past three decades has resulted in an increase in the number of dual-earner families. In 1992, both spouses were employed in 61% of all husband-wife families,⁶ almost double the figure in 1967, when both spouses were employed in just 33% of families. (Chart 7.4)

As well, the earnings of wives in dual-earner families account for a growing share of total income of these families.

Chart 7.4

Dual-earner families as a percentage of all husband-wife families,¹ 1967-1992

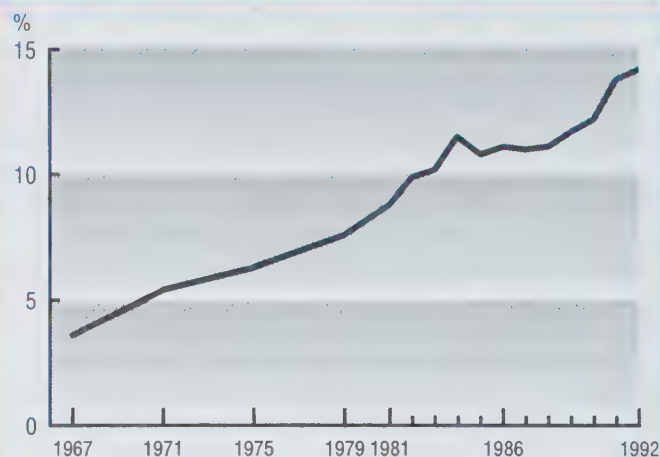


¹ Includes those in common-law unions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-215.

Chart 7.6

Percentage of dual-earner families¹ in which wives earn more than husbands, 1967-1992



¹ Includes those in common-law unions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-215.

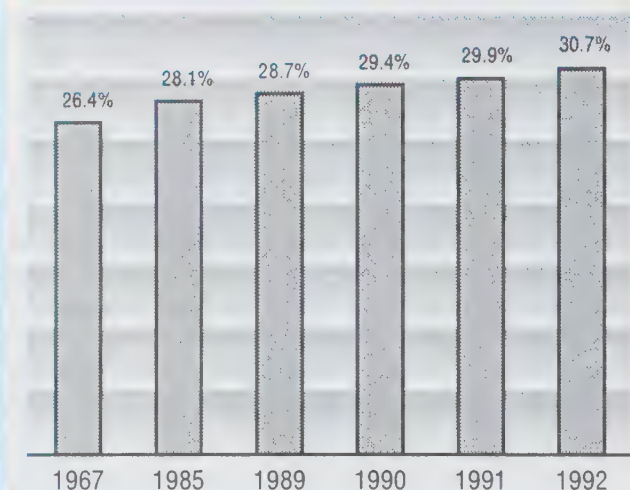
In 1992, wives' earnings represented 31% of the income of dual-earner families, up from 29% in 1989 and 26% in 1967. (Chart 7.5)

In addition, there has been an increase in the percentage of wives who earn more than their husbands over the past 25 years. In 1992, 14% of wives in dual-earner families had employment earnings that were greater than those of their husbands, up from only 4% in 1967.⁷ (Chart 7.6)

The relative importance of wives' earnings to total family income is also reflected in the percentage of families whose income would fall below the Low Income Cut-offs were it not for the contribution of wives' earnings. In 1992, 157,000 dual-earner families, 4% of the total, had low incomes. However, if wives' earnings were deducted from the income of these families, it is estimated that the number of these families with low incomes would jump to 599,000, or 16% of the total. (Chart 7.7)

Chart 7.5

Earnings of wives as a percentage of total income in dual-earner families,¹ 1967-1992

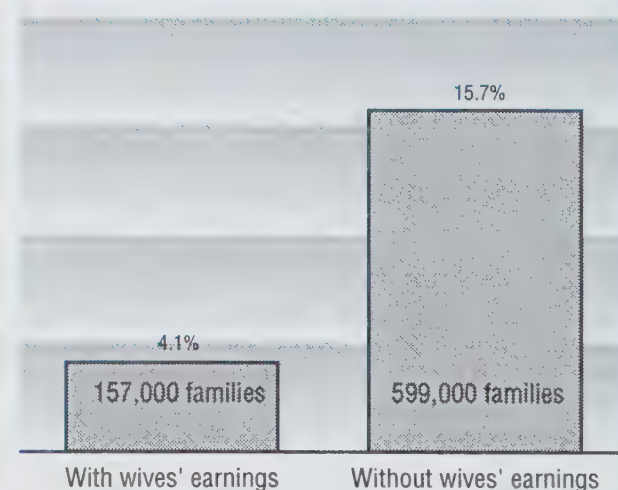


¹ Includes those in common-law unions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-215.

Chart 7.7

Percentage of dual-earner families¹ with low income, by presence of wives' earnings, 1992



¹ Includes those in common-law unions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-215, and Survey of Consumer Finances.

Employer-sponsored pension plans

There has been an increase in the proportion of women covered by employer-sponsored pension plans in the last decade. In 1993, 44% of all employed women were members of such plans, up from 38% in 1980. (Table 7.11)

The proportion of women covered by employer-sponsored plans, though, remains below that of male workers. In 1993, 44% of paid female workers, versus 51% of their male counterparts, belonged to one of these plans. This gap, however, is closing as a result of the fact that participation in these programs by women has increased since the early 1980s, while that of men was lower in 1993 than it was in 1980.

Canada/Quebec Pension Plan participation

The majority of adult women in Canada participate in the Canada/Quebec Pension Plan. In 1992, 61% of all women aged 18-64 contributed to this program, about the same figure as in 1981 (60%). (Chart 7.8)

However, because eligibility for this government-sponsored plan is tied to employment, a smaller proportion of women than men participate. In 1992, 61% of women aged 18-64 were C/QPP contributors, compared with 75% of men. This is a much smaller difference than in 1981, though, since the proportion of men contributing to this program has fallen, while that of women has remained relatively stable.

Registered retirement savings

The proportion of women contributing to Registered Retirement Savings Plans (RRSPs) has also increased

in the last decade. In 1992, 2.1 million women reported contributing to an RRSP. These women represented 21% of all female taxfilers that year, double the figure in 1982 (10%). Women, though, were still somewhat less likely than men to contribute to an RRSP in 1992: 21% versus 29%. (Table 7.12)

Women also tend to contribute less to their RRSPs than men. In 1992, women who purchased RRSPs contributed an average of just under \$2,500, about \$1,000 less than the average contribution for men. Since RRSP contribution limits are linked to earnings, this difference may be related to the fact that women's earnings are lower on average than men's. (Chart 7.9)

As well, the average RRSP contribution made by women has declined in recent years. After accounting for inflation, the average contribution of women to RRSPs was 14% lower in 1992 than in 1988, when the average contribution reached a high of \$2,800. In comparison, the average contribution by men was just 2% lower in 1992 than it was in 1988.⁸

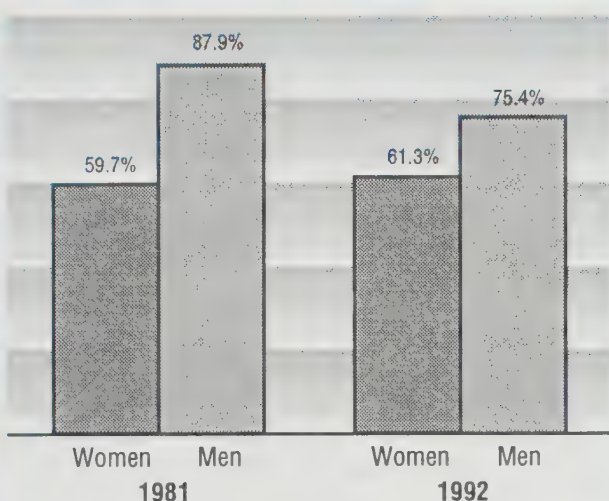
Transfer payments⁹

In general, women tend to receive a larger portion of their total income than men from government transfer payments. Indeed, in 1993, 62% of the total income of women aged 65 and over came from transfer payments, compared with 47% of the income of senior men (Table 7.13)

While the share of the income of senior women derived from transfer payments is greater than that of men, the average dollar amount of the total transfer payments

Chart 7.8

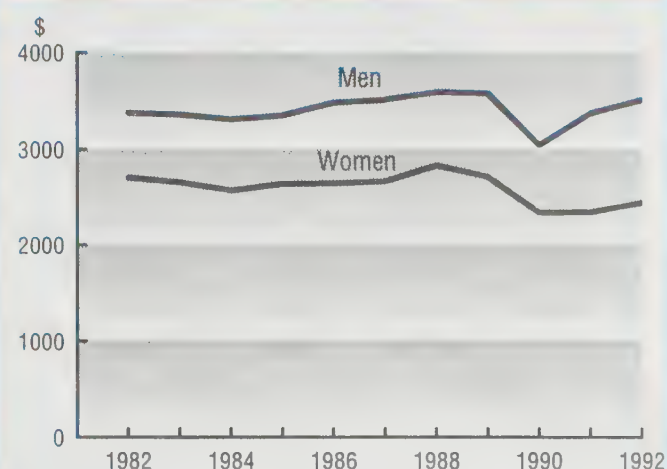
Contributors to Canada/Quebec Pension Plans as a percentage of persons aged 18-64, 1981 and 1992



Sources: Human Resources Development Canada, Income Security Programs Branch; and Régie des rentes du Québec.

Chart 7.9

Average RRSP contributions in constant 1992 dollars, 1982-1992



Source: Revenue Canada, Taxation Statistics.

received by women aged 65 and over is lower. In 1993, women aged 65 and over received an average of just over \$9,100 in transfer payments, \$1,800 less than the figure for senior men. (Chart 7.10)

Transfer payments make up a considerably smaller share of the income of women under age 65. In 1993, transfers represented 13% of the income of women aged 15-64, compared with just 8% of the income of men in this age range. However, among those under age 65, this tendency may partly be a reflection of the fact that transfer payments such as child tax benefits tend to be allocated to the mother.

Government transfer payments also make up a relatively large share of the income of lone-parent families headed by women. In 1993, 37% of all income of these families, versus 19% of that of male-headed lone-parent families and just 9% of that for two-parent families with children, came from transfer payments. (Table 7.14)

Investment income

Next to transfer payments, income generated by investments is the second largest source of income for senior women. In 1993, 19% of the income of women aged 65 and over came from investments, compared with 13% of that of senior men. (Table 7.13)

In contrast, investment income accounts for a relatively small share of the income of both women and men under age 65. Only about 3% of the income of non-elderly women and men in 1993 was derived from investments.

Other money income¹⁰

Income from other money income sources also provides a relatively large proportion of the income of senior women. In 1993, 15% of the total income of women aged 65 and over came from these sources. This, however, was only about half the figure for senior men (29%). (Table 7.13)

The difference between the shares of the income of senior women and men coming from other sources reflects the fact that these women are far less likely than their male counterparts to have been employed and are thus less likely to receive retirement pensions.

On the other hand, money from other income sources makes up a relatively small share of the total income of women aged 15-64. In 1993, only 3% of all income received by women in this age range came from other money sources, about the same figure as for their male counterparts.

Female-headed lone-parent families, however, receive a larger proportion of their income from other sources than do other families. In 1993, other money income accounted for 7% of the income of lone-parent families headed by women, compared with about 2% of the incomes of both male-headed lone-parent families and two-parent families with children. This may be attributed to the fact that some lone-parent mothers receive alimony and child support payments from their former spouse. (Table 7.14)

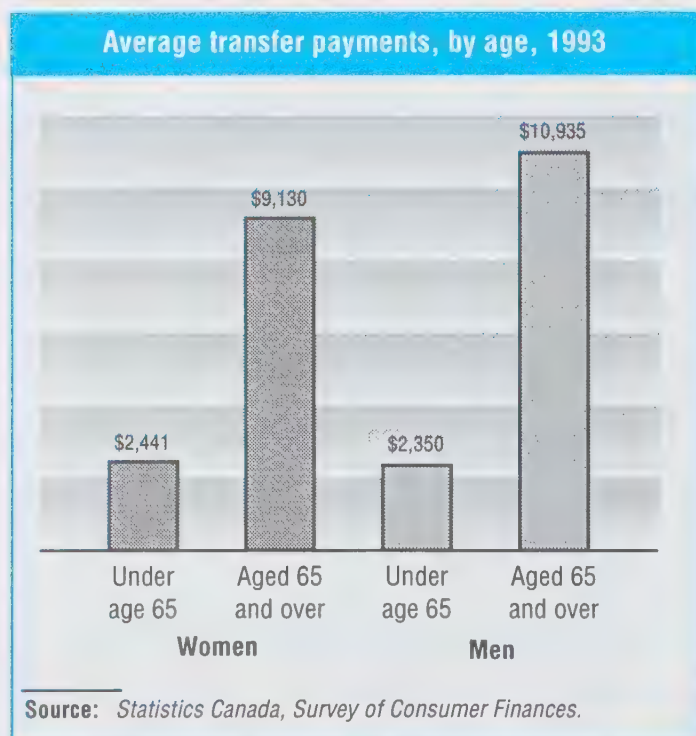
Alimony and child support payments

For many women, alimony and child support payments from a former spouse account for a significant portion of their family income.¹¹ In 1990, female recipients of alimony and child support payments received an average of \$4,900 in payments, representing 14% of their total family income (\$35,300). In comparison, the average family income of male payers was \$55,400, with support payments representing about 9% of their family income. (Table 7.15)

As well, alimony represents a particularly large component of the income of families headed by female lone parents. In fact, according to the 1990 General Social Survey, an estimated one in five female lone-parent families received financial support from someone outside their household. That year, support payments made up 18% of the family income of all recipient lone-parent mothers and 22% of that of recipient female-headed lone-parent families with three or more children.

However, women living alone with no dependent children receive the greatest share of their total income from alimony. In 1990, 36% of the income of these female recipients came from alimony payments. These women also received the largest average alimony payments (\$7,900) of all women receiving support payments from a former spouse. Despite this support, these women

Chart 7.10



still had the lowest average incomes of all recipient women.

Since these data are derived from taxation statistics, they include only those support payments which were actually paid and reported to Revenue Canada. It is estimated that as of March 1994, there were a total of 126,000 family support orders in Ontario alone, and that only 24% of these were in full compliance with no arrears.¹²

However, some efforts are being made at the provincial level to reduce the number of delinquent support orders. For example, on March 1, 1992, Ontario proclaimed the *Family Support Plan Act* which obliges employers to withhold support payments from the wages of delinquent employees. In March 1994, some 51,700 support deduction orders were in place under the provisions of this Act, accounting for 41% of the total caseload of family support orders in Ontario. At that time, full compliance for these orders was 28%.

¹ *Income includes employment earnings (wages and salaries as well as net income from self-employment), government transfer payments, investment income, and other money income.*

² *An unattached individual is a person living alone or in a household where she/he is not related to other household members.*

³ *These data on the earnings of women and men refer primarily to the earnings of full-time, full-year workers. By including only these workers, the effects of differences in the work force characteristics of women and men are minimized. However, this restriction does not eliminate all work pattern variation between women and men. Even for those employed full-time, for example, the total hours worked by women and men are different.*

⁴ *For more analysis on education and the earnings gap see "The Gender Earnings Gap Among Recent Postsecondary Graduates, 1984-1992," by Ted Wannell and Nathalie Caron, Statistics Canada, Research Paper 11F009E, No. 68.*

⁵ *The particularly low female-to-male earning ratio in medicine and health professions is due, in large part, to the*

disproportionate number of women who work as nurses or other health technicians.

⁶ *Throughout this section on dual-earner families, the term families refers to husband-wife families, which include both married couples and those living common law.*

⁷ *For more information see "Women's Earnings and Family Incomes", by Abdul Rashid, in **Perspectives on Labour and Income**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 75-001E, Summer 1991.*

⁸ *For more information on the retirement income of women see "Women Approaching Retirement", by Diane Galarneau, in **Perspectives on Labour and Income**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 75-001E, Autumn 1991; and "RRSPs - New Rules, New Growth", by Hubert Frenken and Karen Maser, in the Winter 1993 issue of **Perspectives on Labour and Income**.*

⁹ *Government transfer payments include all social welfare payments from federal, provincial and municipal governments such as Child Tax Benefits, Old Age Security, Guaranteed Income Supplements, Spouse's Allowances, Canada/Quebec Pension Plan pensions, Unemployment Insurance, worker's compensation, training allowances, veteran's pensions, social assistance, and pensions to the blind and persons with disabilities. Refundable tax credits and Goods and Services Tax Credits are included as income.*

¹⁰ *Other money income includes retirement pensions, annuities, superannuation, scholarships, alimony, and other items not included in the above categories.*

¹¹ *Although some men receive alimony, it is uncommon. According to tax data, men represented just 2% of those receiving such payments in 1990. Thus the term "recipients" refers only to women who indicated on their tax returns that they had received support payments on their own behalf or on behalf of their child(ren). Similarly, data referring to those paying alimony or child support (payers) include only men. For more information on this topic see "Alimony and Child Support," by Diane Galarneau, in **Canadian Social Trends**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-008E, Spring 1993.*

¹² *Source: **Family Support Plan Statistics**, Ontario Ministry of the Attorney General.*

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Table 7.1
Average income of individuals, by age, 1993

	Women	Men	Women's income as a % of men's
	\$		
Persons aged			
15-24	7,404	8,714	85.0
25-34	18,819	28,721	65.5
35-44	21,485	36,936	58.2
45-54	20,230	40,321	50.2
55-59	15,085	36,371	41.5
60-64	12,301	31,624	38.9
65 and over	14,677	23,224	63.2
Total aged 15 and over	16,473	28,565	57.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 7.2
Average family income, by family type, 1980-1993

	Non-elderly families ¹						Elderly families ⁴
	Two-parent families with children ²	Married couples without children	Other couples ³	Lone-parent families ²		Other families	
				Female head	Male head		
	Constant 1993 \$						
1980	58,747	55,689	75,632	24,592	39,049	41,500	38,307
1981	57,882	53,102	76,579	24,480	44,361	44,522	36,251
1982	56,498	51,098	74,535	22,409	39,786	44,229	38,081
1983	56,248	51,730	71,125	22,153	36,836	40,358	35,543
1984	56,473	50,987	68,937	23,245	39,432	42,504	37,957
1985	58,129	52,230	72,207	22,917	37,625	42,016	38,426
1986	59,395	52,231	76,253	23,017	38,971	45,445	38,565
1987	60,795	54,201	74,732	23,674	48,600	44,145	37,313
1988	61,725	56,024	76,462	23,707	41,597	45,392	38,283
1989	63,710	55,059	78,579	25,858	48,640	47,176	42,846
1990	62,445	55,125	79,735	23,974	40,090	46,708	42,301
1991	60,992	54,645	75,691	22,930	37,898	45,554	41,378
1992	61,347	56,655	74,641	24,517	39,492	41,450	40,160
1993	59,658	53,768	75,092	23,301	35,439	43,869	40,572

¹Includes families with head under age 65.

²Includes families with children under age 18 living at home.

³Includes only families with children 18 years of age and over and/or other relatives.

⁴Includes families with head aged 65 and over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Table 7.3
Average income of unattached individuals,¹ by age, 1993

	Women	Men	Women's income as a % of men's
	\$		
Persons aged			
15-24	13,608	15,945	85.3
25-34	25,024	25,813	96.9
35-44	29,237	30,437	96.1
45-54	27,063	32,375	83.6
55-59	20,525	27,730	74.0
60-64	19,096	29,893	63.9
Total aged 15-64	23,211	27,111	85.6
65 and over	16,842	20,965	80.3
Total aged 15 and over	20,610	26,123	78.9

¹Includes only individuals with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Table 7.4
Persons¹ with low income, 1980-1993

	Women with low income	% of women with low income	Men with low income	% of men with low income	Women as a % of all persons with low income
	000s		000s		
1980	2,104	17.6	1,589	13.6	57.0
1981	2,116	17.6	1,621	13.8	56.6
1982	2,295	18.9	1,816	15.3	55.8
1983	2,467	20.1	2,018	16.9	55.0
1984	2,528	20.5	2,022	16.8	55.6
1985	2,401	19.3	1,887	15.6	56.0
1986	2,276	18.1	1,794	14.7	55.9
1987	2,280	17.9	1,755	14.2	56.5
1988	2,233	17.4	1,628	13.0	57.8
1989	2,069	15.9	1,535	12.1	57.4
1990	2,273	17.2	1,694	13.2	57.3
1991	2,441	18.2	1,920	14.7	56.0
1992	2,509	18.4	1,999	15.1	55.7
1993	2,755	19.9	2,139	15.8	56.3

¹Includes children under age 18.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Table 7.5
Unattached individuals with low income, by age, 1993

	Women		Men	
	000s	%	000s	%
Persons aged				
15-24	116.0	64.4	109.4	58.8
25-34	85.9	30.1	147.1	30.9
35-44	62.0	29.1	106.4	26.7
45-54	63.1	35.5	63.4	30.4
55-59	48.6	49.3	22.9	30.6
60-64	58.6	49.0	30.9	38.2
Total aged 15-64	434.2	40.4	480.3	33.7
65 and over	414.1	55.8	104.6	38.3
Total aged 15 and over	848.3	46.7	584.9	34.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 7.6
Percentage of families with low income, by family type, 1980-1993

	Non-elderly families ¹						
	Two-parent families with children ²	Married couples without children	Other couples ³	Lone-parent families ²		Other families	Elderly families ⁴
				Female head	Male head		
%							
1980	9.6	6.8	4.1	56.7	24.7	25.0	18.8
1981	10.2	7.4	4.2	54.0	18.1	17.2	20.2
1982	11.9	8.9	4.8	59.8	26.5	18.8	14.8
1983	12.6	9.6	6.1	60.8	28.5	23.7	15.7
1984	13.2	10.0	6.2	62.4	27.2	20.0	16.5
1985	11.8	8.6	4.8	61.4	27.2	20.9	14.9
1986	11.0	9.1	4.4	57.7	22.7	17.1	14.2
1987	10.3	8.9	4.7	58.3	17.9	17.3	12.9
1988	9.2	7.8	3.3	55.1	23.1	18.3	12.7
1989	8.7	7.3	2.9	52.5	19.3	15.7	9.9
1990	9.9	8.2	3.3	59.6	25.3	18.2	7.5
1991	11.0	9.1	3.7	61.1	22.3	17.7	7.9
1992	10.7	8.6	5.6	57.2	20.9	20.4	8.5
1993	12.5	9.6	3.5	59.6	31.3	19.7	9.4

¹Includes families with head under age 65.

²Includes families with children under age 18 living at home.

³Includes only families with children 18 years of age and over and/or other relatives.

⁴Includes families with head aged 65 and over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Table 7.7
Average annual earnings,¹ 1967-1993

	Full-time, full-year workers			Other workers			All earners		
	Women	Men	Earnings ratio ²	Women	Men	Earnings ratio ²	Women	Men	Earnings ratio ²
	\$		%	\$		%	\$		%
1967	17,729	30,353	58.4	6,369	12,595	50.6	11,611	25,186	46.1
1969	19,423	33,109	58.7	7,565	16,457	46.0	12,293	26,901	45.7
1971	21,412	35,890	59.7	7,145	14,172	50.4	13,534	28,876	46.9
1972	22,228	37,158	59.8	7,338	14,199	51.7	13,804	29,937	46.1
1973	22,436	37,856	59.3	7,499	14,364	52.2	14,103	30,484	46.3
1974	23,445	39,361	59.6	8,197	15,360	53.4	14,787	31,187	47.4
1975	24,299	40,368	60.2	8,115	16,033	50.6	15,351	31,927	48.1
1976	25,559	43,219	59.1	8,921	17,009	52.4	15,883	34,018	46.7
1977	24,900	40,128	62.1	9,070	14,925	60.8	16,385	32,276	50.8
1978	25,720	40,829	63.0	8,651	14,746	58.7	16,328	32,140	50.8
1979	25,143	39,614	63.5	8,995	15,522	57.9	16,500	31,998	51.6
1980	25,934	40,366	64.2	8,866	14,315	61.9	16,551	32,073	51.6
1981	25,240	39,602	63.7	9,212	14,721	62.6	16,729	31,285	53.5
1982	25,068	39,180	64.0	8,594	13,634	63.0	16,403	29,870	54.9
1983	25,868	40,051	64.6	8,119	13,000	62.5	16,532	30,100	54.9
1984	25,541	38,954	65.6	9,046	12,907	70.1	16,889	29,453	57.3
1985	25,403	39,115	64.9	8,773	12,377	70.9	16,940	30,152	56.2
1986	25,905	39,361	65.8	9,530	12,864	74.1	17,569	30,609	57.4
1987	26,257	39,820	65.9	9,743	12,694	76.8	17,772	30,832	57.6
1988	26,323	40,302	65.3	9,597	12,892	74.4	18,080	31,509	57.4
1989	26,409	40,113	65.8	10,009	13,536	73.9	18,634	31,598	59.0
1990	27,207	40,242	67.6	9,776	13,657	71.6	18,712	31,231	59.9
1991	27,742	39,859	69.6	9,188	12,959	70.9	18,655	30,311	61.5
1992	28,868	40,189	71.8	9,467	12,373	76.5	19,269	30,194	63.8
1993	28,392	39,433	72.0	9,165	12,260	74.8	18,936	29,599	64.0

¹Expressed in constant 1993 dollars.

²Represents women's earnings as a percentage of those of men.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-217.

Table 7.8
Average annual earnings of persons employed full-time, full-year, by educational attainment, 1993

	Women	Men	Women's earnings as a % of men's
	\$		
Educational attainment			
Less than Grade 9	20,024	29,127	68.7
Some secondary school	21,124	34,165	61.8
Secondary school graduate	24,873	34,703	71.7
Some postsecondary	24,470	37,995	64.4
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	28,183	38,174	73.8
University degree	40,669	54,152	75.1
Total	28,392	39,433	72.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-217.

Table 7.9
Average annual earnings, by occupation, 1993

	Full-time, full-year workers			All workers		
	Women	Men	Earnings ratio ¹	Women	Men	Earnings ratio ¹
	\$		%	\$		%
Managerial/administrative	34,765	51,680	67.3	30,943	48,187	64.2
Natural sciences	34,896	45,851	76.1	30,855	40,979	75.3
Social sciences/religion	36,235	50,766	71.4	28,680	47,443	60.4
Teaching	40,302	50,931	79.1	30,786	43,181	71.3
Medicine/health	34,408	57,743	59.6	27,185	50,590	53.7
Artistic/recreational	30,115	38,760	77.7	18,687	28,277	66.1
Clerical	25,570	32,431	78.8	19,394	24,681	78.6
Sales	24,008	37,589	63.9	16,280	29,097	56.0
Service	18,919	31,343	60.4	12,236	21,505	56.9
Agriculture	13,106	20,570	63.7	9,895	17,021	58.1
Processing	25,494	37,460	68.1	19,475	32,149	60.6
Product assembly/ fabrication/repair	22,228	35,419	62.8	17,374	29,839	58.2
Transport equipment operation	23,001	35,796	64.3	13,708	29,590	46.3
Material handling	21,295	32,446	65.6	14,724	22,762	64.7
Total	28,392	39,433	72.0	18,936	29,599	64.0

¹Represents women's earnings as a percentage of those of men.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-217.

Table 7.10

Average annual earnings of full-time, full-year workers, by age and marital status, 1993

	Single	Married	Other ¹	Total
	\$			
Persons aged				
15-24				
Women	20,432	21,073	--	20,699
Men	21,888	26,481	--	22,783
Earnings ratio ² (%)	93.3	79.6	--	90.9
25-34				
Women	27,866	26,995	26,164	27,201
Men	31,158	37,596	36,188	35,604
Earnings ratio ² (%)	89.4	71.8	72.3	76.4
35-44				
Women	35,084	29,293	30,971	30,259
Men	34,507	42,971	40,741	41,795
Earnings ratio ² (%)	101.7	68.2	76.0	72.4
45-54				
Women	36,109	29,803	30,280	30,395
Men	36,721	45,889	44,409	45,241
Earnings ratio ² (%)	98.3	64.9	68.2	67.2
55 and over				
Women	--	26,938	26,991	26,977
Men	--	39,272	45,689	39,056
Earnings ratio ² (%)	--	68.6	59.1	69.1
Total aged 15 and over				
Women	28,269	28,257	29,313	28,392
Men	29,597	41,706	41,837	39,433
Earnings ratio ² (%)	95.5	67.8	70.1	72.0

¹Includes separated/divorced and widowed.²Represents women's earnings as a percentage of those of men.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-217.

Table 7.11
Membership in employer-sponsored pension plans, 1980-1993¹

	Women			Men	
	Total members (000s)	% of employed paid female workers	% of all plan members	Total members (000s)	% of employed paid male workers
1980	1,378	37.6	30.8	3,098	54.2
1982	1,477	36.2	31.7	3,181	53.7
1984	1,525	37.3	33.4	3,039	54.7
1986	1,621	37.0	34.7	3,047	52.9
1988	1,763	37.2	36.4	3,082	51.0
1989	1,869	37.8	37.6	3,096	49.9
1990	1,981	39.0	38.8	3,128	49.6
1992	2,189	42.5	41.2	3,129	51.8
1993	2,220	43.5	42.3	3,025	50.7

¹At January 1st of each year.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 74-401.

Table 7.12
Contributors to Registered Retirement Savings Plans, 1982-1992

	Women		Men		Women as a % of all contributors
	000s	% of all female taxfilers	000s	% of all male taxfilers	
1982	706.7	9.7	1,393.6	17.5	33.6
1983	823.4	11.3	1,505.8	18.8	35.4
1984	960.6	12.9	1,684.4	20.8	36.3
1985	1,085.5	14.2	1,807.4	21.9	37.5
1986	1,241.9	15.6	1,974.4	23.1	38.6
1987	1,364.2	16.5	2,119.5	24.1	39.2
1988	1,510.5	17.6	2,291.7	25.4	39.7
1989	1,690.9	19.1	2,470.6	26.7	40.6
1990	1,704.8	18.4	2,435.1	25.6	41.2
1991	1,928.8	20.3	2,688.8	28.1	41.8
1992	2,052.2	21.1	2,784.2	28.6	42.4

Source: Revenue Canada, Taxation Statistics.

Table 7.13
Composition of income of all individuals with income, by age, 1993

	Women		Men	
	Under age 65	Aged 65 and over	Under age 65	Aged 65 and over
	%			
Wages and salaries	78.0	3.6	79.3	7.6
Net income from self-employment	3.5	0.7	6.8	3.6
Investment income	2.7	19.0	2.6	13.3
Transfer payments	12.5	61.5	7.6	46.8
Other money income	3.4	15.2	3.7	28.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total average income (\$)	19,526	14,845	30,919	23,366

Source: Statistics Canada, Survey of Consumer Finances.

Table 7.14
Composition of family income, by family structure, 1992

	Non-elderly families ¹						Elderly families ⁴
	Two-parent families with children ²	Married couples without children	Other couples ³	Lone-parent families ²		Other families	
				Female head	Male head		
				%			
Wages and salaries	81.7	77.8	80.6	50.9	65.7	72.5	21.5
Net income from self-employment	6.1	5.5	4.4	4.7	11.5	3.2	3.9
Investment income	1.9	3.6	3.5	1.2	2.2	2.8	13.4
Transfer payments	8.6	6.7	7.3	36.5	18.8	16.4	41.2
Other money income	1.7	6.3	4.2	6.6	1.8	5.2	20.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total average income (\$)	59,687	53,877	75,092	23,440	35,439	44,132	40,643

¹Includes families with head under age 65.

²Includes families with children under age 18 living at home.

³Includes only families with children 18 years of age and over and/or other relatives.

⁴Includes families with head aged 65 and over.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 13-207.

Table 7.15
Average income and alimony payments of payers and recipients, 1990

	Average alimony payments	Average family income	Alimony payments as a % of family income
	\$		
Male payers	4,800	55,400	9
Female recipients:	4,900	35,300	14
Lone-parent families	4,800	26,800	18
No children under age 18	7,400	40,400	18
One child ¹	3,800	25,800	15
Two children ¹	5,100	26,000	20
Three or more children ¹	5,500	24,600	22
Husband-wife families	3,900	60,000	6
No children under age 18	4,900	70,000	1
One child ¹	3,200	61,800	5
Two children ¹	4,000	59,600	7
Three or more children ¹	4,200	56,900	7
Women without spouse or dependent children	7,900	21,800	36

¹Includes only children under age 18.

Source: Statistics Canada, Small Area and Administrative Data Division.

WOMEN AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

by Catherine Trainor, Josée Normand and Lisa Verdon

Involvement in criminal activity

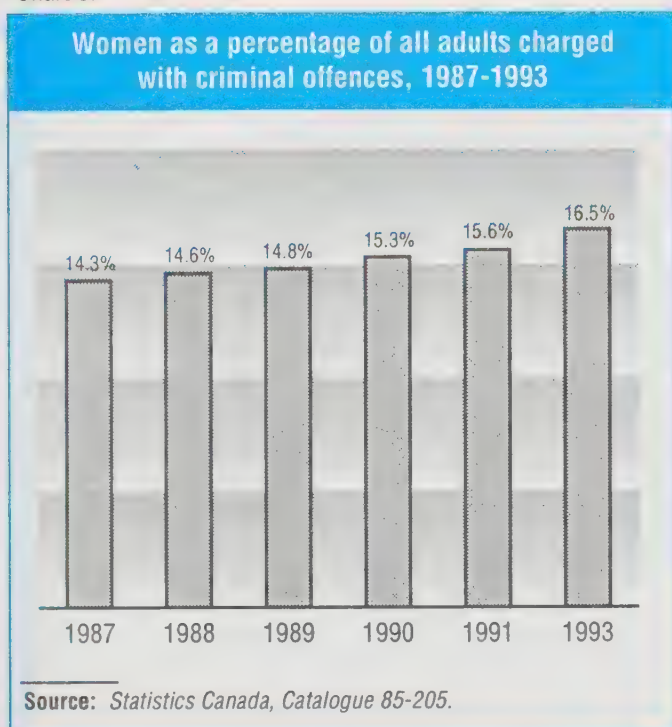
Women make up a relatively small percentage of adult offenders in the criminal justice system. In fact, only 17% of all persons aged 18 and over charged with criminal offences in 1993 were women. The share of all criminal offenders accounted for by women, however, has increased somewhat from 14% in 1987. (Chart 8.1)

Women make up a particularly small share of adults charged with violent crimes. In 1993, only 11% of persons aged 18 and over charged with violent crimes were women. That year, women made up 14% of those charged with homicide, 14% of those charged with attempted murder, 13% of those charged with non-sexual assaults, 8% of those charged with robbery, and only 2% of those charged with sexual assault. (Table 8.1)

Women account for a somewhat greater share of those charged with property offences than those charged with violent crimes. In 1993, 24% of all adults charged with crimes against property were women, compared with 11% of those charged with violent crimes.

There is considerable variation, though, in women's involvement in different types of property crime. In 1993, for example, women made up 35% of those charged with theft under \$1,000 and 30% of those charged with fraud.

Chart 8.1



In contrast, only 5% of adults charged with either breaking and entering or theft of a motor vehicle were women.

About half of all adults charged with prostitution-related offences, including communicating for the purpose of prostitution, operating a bawdy house, and procuring, that is, recruiting new prostitutes, are women.¹ In 1993, 4,200 women were charged with prostitution-related offences; these women represented 48% of all adults charged with this type of offence that year.

These data include both prostitutes and customers charged with prostitution-related offences, since police and court information do not distinguish between prostitutes and customers. It is generally acknowledged, however, that most prostitutes who are charged are female, while most customers who are charged are male.²

Overall, relatively few women are charged with drug offences.³ In 1993, women represented 14% of persons aged 18 and over charged under the *Narcotic Control Act* and the *Food and Drug Act*. That year, women accounted for 17% of adults charged with cocaine offences, 15% of those involved with heroin, and 13% of those involved with cannabis. (Table 8.2)

As with men, however, the majority of drug-related charges brought against women are for cannabis-related offences. In 1993, 54% of all drug charges against women were for cannabis-related offences, while the figure for men was 61%.

Young female offenders

Female youths also account for a relatively small proportion of all reported youth crime.⁴ In 1993, just 21% of 12-17-year-olds charged in criminal incidents were female. (Table 8.1)

Unlike adult women, female young offenders account for a greater share of those charged with violent offences than those charged with property crimes. In 1993, females aged 12-17 made up 24% of all young offenders charged with violent offences, compared with 21% of those charged with property crimes.

As well, the percentage of all youths charged with crimes against property accounted for by female youths declines the more serious the offence. For example, female youths made up 33% of young offenders charged with theft under \$1,000 and 30% of those charged with fraud in 1993, versus 13% of those charged with theft over \$1,000, 10% of those charged with motor vehicle theft, and 7% of those charged with breaking and entering.

Women in correctional facilities

Women make up a relatively small proportion of the population sentenced to correctional facilities. In 1994, a total of 312 women were sentenced to federal penitentiaries.⁵ These women represented only 3% of all persons sentenced to federal institutions that year.

Women make up a slightly larger share of those admitted to provincial facilities. In 1993-94, a total of 10,696 women were admitted to provincial facilities, representing 9% of all adult admissions to these institutions that year. (Table 8.3)

Victims of crimes

Overall, women and men are about equally likely to be victims of crime. In 1993,⁶ 23% of women and 24% of men aged 15 and over reported that they had been the victim of at least one personal or household crime. As well, the likelihood of being victimized has not changed substantially for either women or men over the past five years.⁷ (Table 8.4)

However, women are more likely than men to be the victims of a personal crime, such as sexual assault, robbery, attempted robbery and assault. In 1993, there were 151 incidents of these crimes for every 1,000 women aged 15 and over, compared with 136 for men. (Table 8.5)

The likelihood of women and men being victims of a personal crime also varies by the type of crime. Women, for example, are considerably more likely than men to be victims of sexual assault. In 1993, there were 29 such

incidents for every 1,000 women aged 15 and over, whereas there were too few of these crimes committed against men to produce a statistically reliable estimate. (Chart 8.2)

At the same time, women were only about half as likely as men to be the victims of a robbery, while about the same percentage of women and men were victims of either personal thefts or non-sexual assaults.

Young women are particularly likely to be the victims of a personal crime. In 1993, there were 333 personal crimes committed for every 1,000 women aged 15-24, compared with 178 among 25-44-year-old women and 74 among those aged 45-64. The number of personal crimes committed against women aged 65 and over was too small to be expressed reliably. (Table 8.5)

Women victimized by men they know

Women who are victims of violent attacks are more likely than male victims to know their assailants. In fact, acquaintances or relatives were responsible for 72% of the violent incidents committed against women in 1993, compared with 37% of those committed against men. In comparison, strangers perpetrated 24% of violent attacks against women, versus 56% of attacks against men. (Chart 8.3)

Most personal victimizations go unreported

The majority of personal crimes committed against women are not reported to the police. In 1993, 69% of all personal victimizations experienced by women were not reported to police, slightly higher than the corresponding figure for male victims (62%). (Chart 8.4)

Chart 8.2

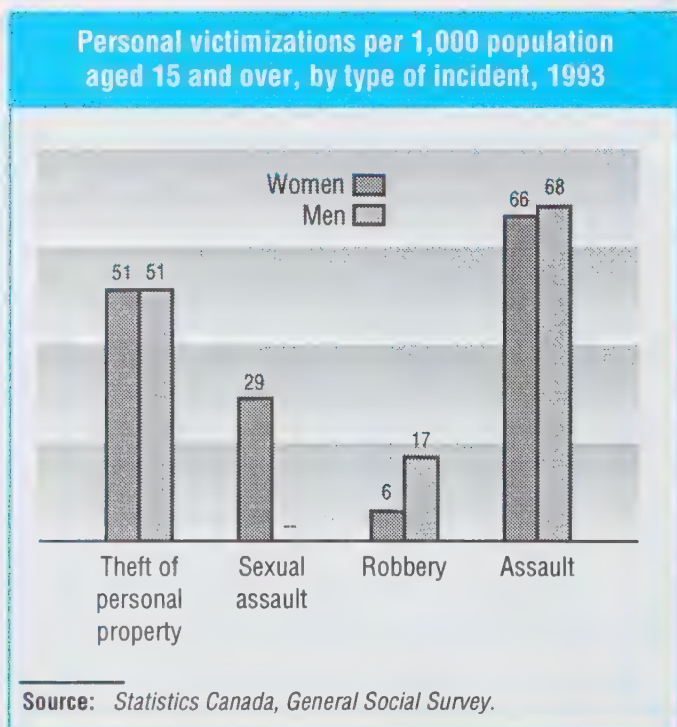
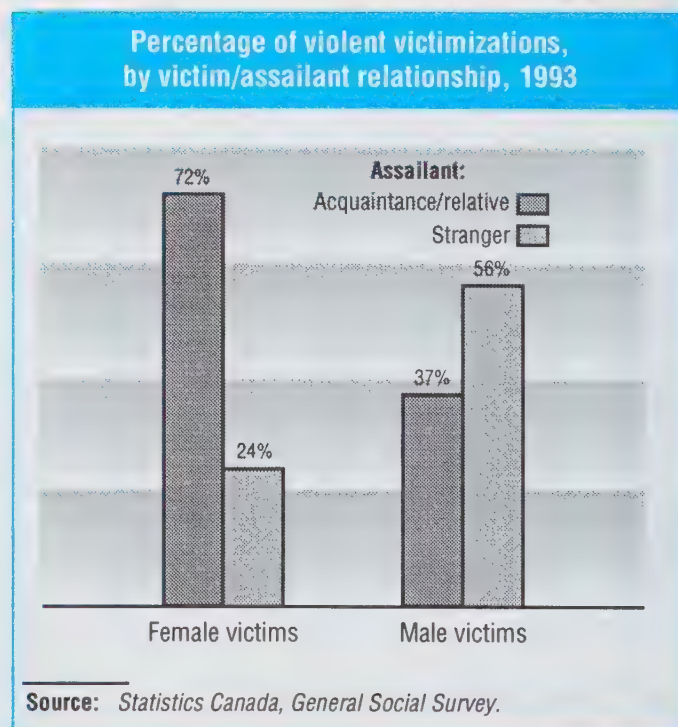


Chart 8.3

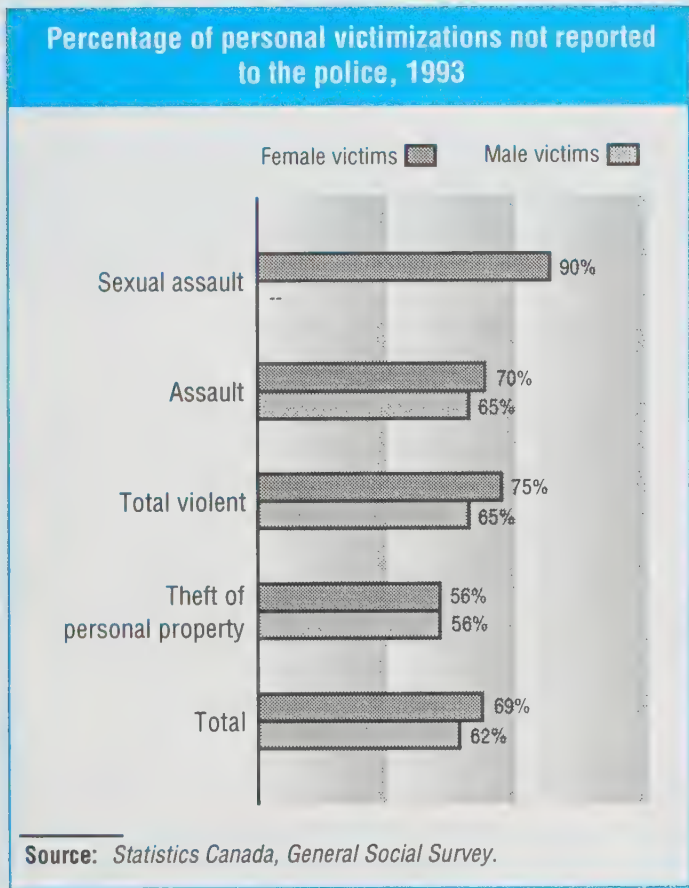


Violent personal crimes committed against women are even less likely to be reported to police. In 1993, 75% of all violent attacks against women were not reported to the police, compared with 65% of those committed against men. In fact, 90% of sexual assaults committed against women went unreported that year.

The most common reason cited by women for not reporting personal victimizations to the police in 1993 was that the incidents were dealt with in another manner (58%). As well, in many cases the incident was not reported because the woman considered it to be a personal matter (49%), she did not want to get involved with the police (45%), or she considered the incident to be minor (38%). At the same time, though, 33% of these incidents were not reported because the victim felt the police could do nothing about it, while in 24% of cases, the woman feared revenge from the offender. (Table 8.6)

Women and men tend to have different reasons for not reporting personal victimizations to the police. While one in five personal victimizations against women were not reported because the woman feared revenge from the attacker, so few male victims cited this reason that the figure could not be expressed reliably. In contrast, women were less likely than men to keep incidents from the police because they were too minor, or because the victim felt that the police could not do anything or would not help.

Chart 8.4



Effects of personal victimization

Incidents of personal victimization are more likely to disrupt the daily activities of female than male victims. In 1993, 27% of female personal victimizations resulted in the woman finding it difficult or impossible to carry out her main activity for at least one day, more than twice the figure reported by male victims (12%). (Chart 8.5)

Female victims of homicide

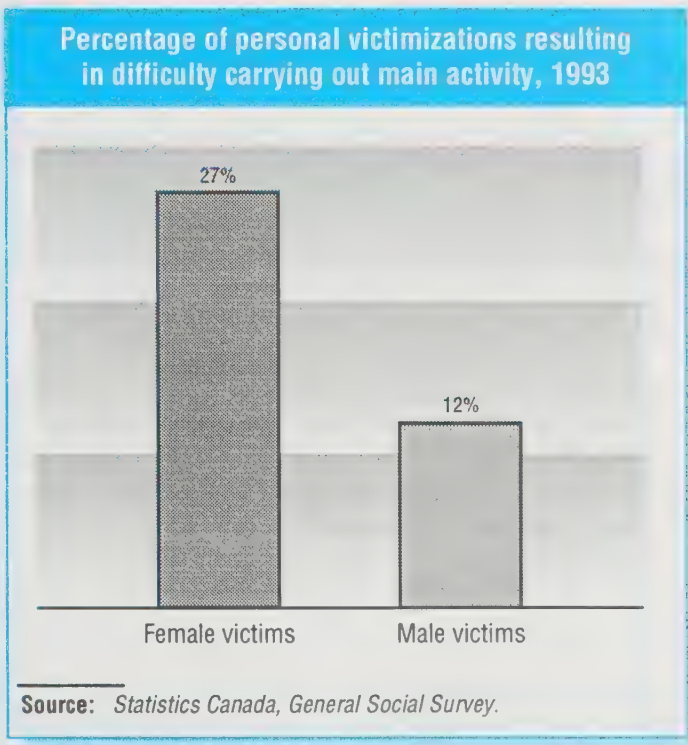
Fewer women than men are victims of homicide. In 1993, there were 208 female homicide victims, representing about one out of three of all homicides that year. The number of female homicide victims, however, has fallen in recent years, from 271 in 1991 to 208 in 1993. Female victims as a percentage of all homicide victims, though, has not changed. (Chart 8.6)

More domestic homicides

Although women account for only a third of all homicide victims, they make up the majority of those killed by a family member.⁸ In 1993, women made up 59% of all homicide victims killed in a domestic relationship, while they represented only 22% of those killed by an acquaintance and just 12% of those killed by a stranger. (Table 8.7)

Women killed by their husbands or common-law partners account for the single largest group of victims in family-related homicides. In 1993, 38% of all domestic homicides involved women killed by their husbands, common-law partners or former partners, while only 15% involved men murdered by their current or former partners. (Table 8.8)

Chart 8.5



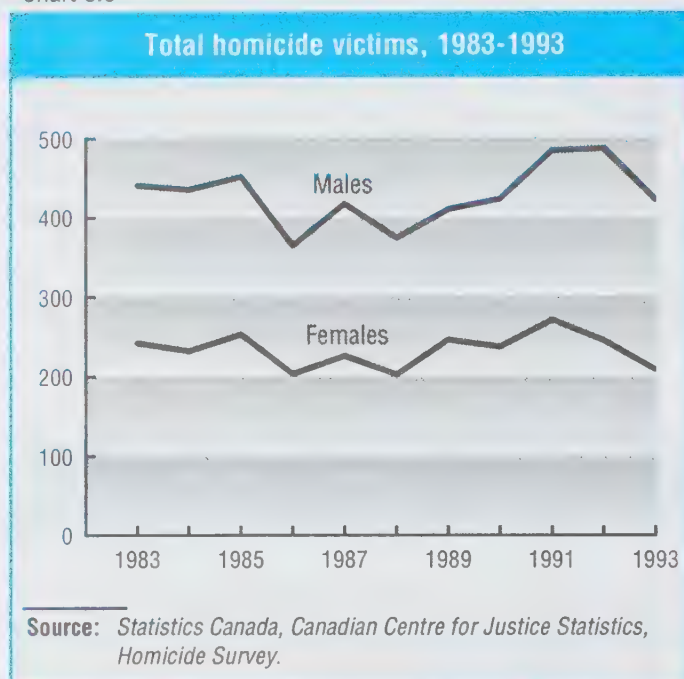
Violence Against Women Survey

In 1993, Statistics Canada conducted the Violence Against Women Survey, the first survey of its kind to collect data on male violence against women. Approximately 12,300 women aged 18 and over were randomly selected, contacted by telephone, and asked about their perceptions of personal safety and their experiences of physical and sexual violence since the age of 16. The types of violence experienced by women were divided into three categories: wife assault, sexual assault and physical assault.

Wife assault includes all incidents of physical and sexual assault by a current or former husband or common-law partner. This was determined through a series of questions, each relating to different behaviours. However, only incidents which fell under the *Criminal Code* definition of physical and sexual assault were included.

Sexual and physical assaults by men other than spouses were reported separately. Sexual assault includes a broad range of experiences from unwanted sexual touching to sexual violence resulting in wounding, maiming or endangering the life of the victim. Physical assault includes any use of force such as being hit, slapped, kicked, or grabbed, or being beaten, knifed or shot. Threats of physical violence are also included as the *Criminal Code* considers these to be assaults, so long as they are face-to-face and the victim has a reasonable expectation that the action will occur.⁹

Chart 8.6



Wife assault

During the 12 months prior to the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey, 3% of all women who were married or living common law at the time reported that they had experienced violence at the hands of their current husband or common-law partner at least once.¹⁰

Overall, 29% of all women who had ever been married or lived in a common-law relationship, had been physically or sexually assaulted by their partner on at least one occasion since the age of 16. (Table 8.9)

In general, women were more likely to report experiences of wife assault by previous partners than by current partners. As of 1993, 48% of all women who had ever been married or lived common law reported that their ex-partners had assaulted them. In comparison, 15% of those who were presently married or living common law had been assaulted by their current partner.

Types of wife assault

As of 1993, 16% of all ever-married women reported that the most serious types of wife assault they had ever experienced involved being kicked, hit, beaten up or choked, having a gun or knife used against them, or being sexually assaulted. At the same time, 11% reported that being pushed, grabbed, shoved or slapped was the most serious form of violence ever experienced, while 2% had only experienced non-physical assaults, such as being threatened or having something thrown at them. (Chart 8.7)

Life-threatening wife assault

One in three ever-married women (34%) in violent partnerships had feared at some point that their lives were in danger. Once again, wife assault victims were more likely to have experienced life-threatening violence in previous relationships. In 1993, 45% of women in previous violent marital relationships or common-law unions had feared for their lives, compared with 13% of women in current violent partnerships. (Chart 8.8)

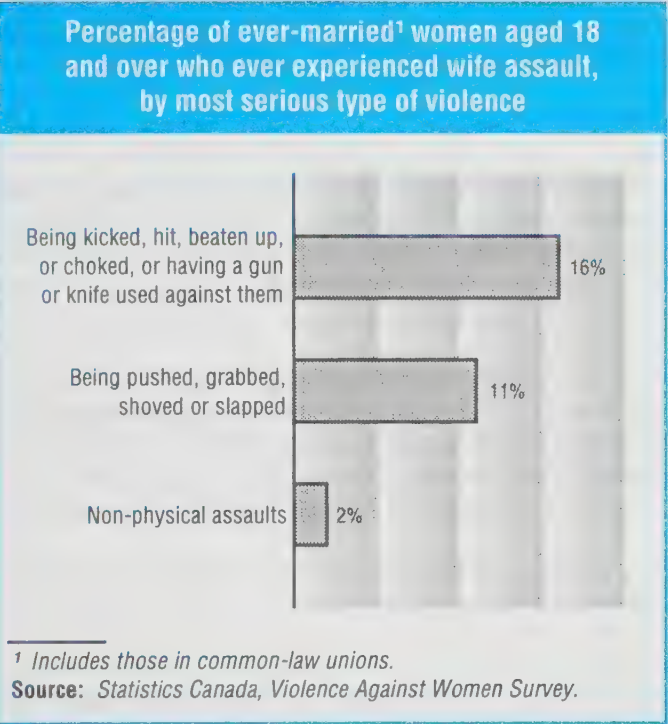
Most victims assaulted more than once

Almost two out of three women who have ever experienced wife assault had been victimized on more than one occasion. As of 1993, 63% of women who had ever

experienced spousal abuse had been victimized more than once. This included 32% who were victimized on at least 11 occasions, while 9% were assaulted between 6 and 10 times, and 22% were victimized between 2 and 5 times. (Table 8.9)

As well, the incidence of repeated abuse was higher for previous partnerships than for current unions, perhaps

Chart 8.7



indicating that women tend to leave violent partnerships. For example, 41% of women who had been assaulted by a previous partner experienced more than 10 separate assaults, compared with 10% of those currently living with a violent partner.

Risk of assault at separation

For most women who experienced wife assault in a former relationship, the violence ended at the time of separation. In fact, 81% of ever-married women who experienced wife assault in a past relationship reported no further violence after they separated from their partner. However, for 19% of these women, the violence continued even after separation. (Table 8.10)

Indeed, for some women, the assaults only began at the time of separation, while for others, the violence escalated. For example, 8% of ever-married women who experienced violence after separation reported that the assaults first began when they left the relationship. As well, the violence increased in severity and/or frequency after separation for 35% of women whose partner had assaulted them after separation.

Non-spousal male violence

Many women experience violence at the hands of men other than their husbands or common-law partners, including dates or boyfriends, other known men or strangers.¹¹ In the 12 months prior to the Violence Against Women Survey, 8% of women in Canada were sexually or physically assaulted by a man other than a spouse. That year, 6% of women were sexually assaulted and 3% were physically assaulted. (Chart 8.9)

Chart 8.8

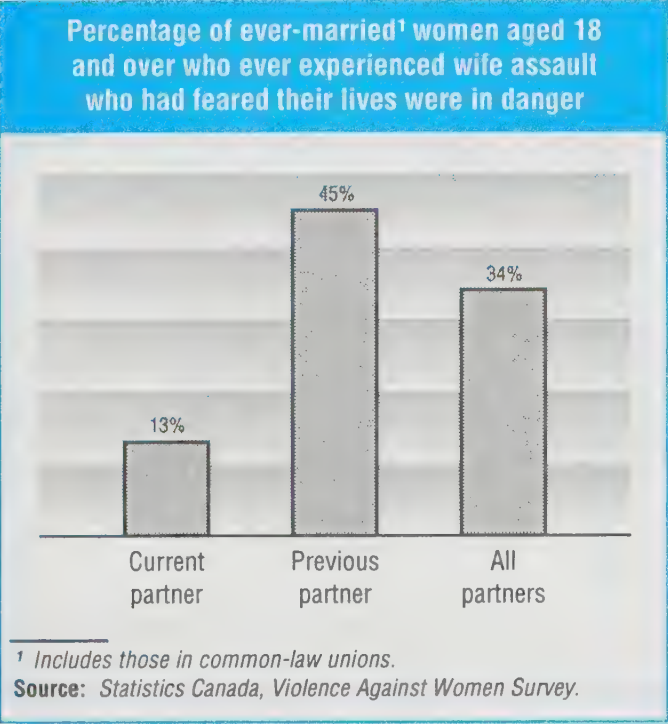
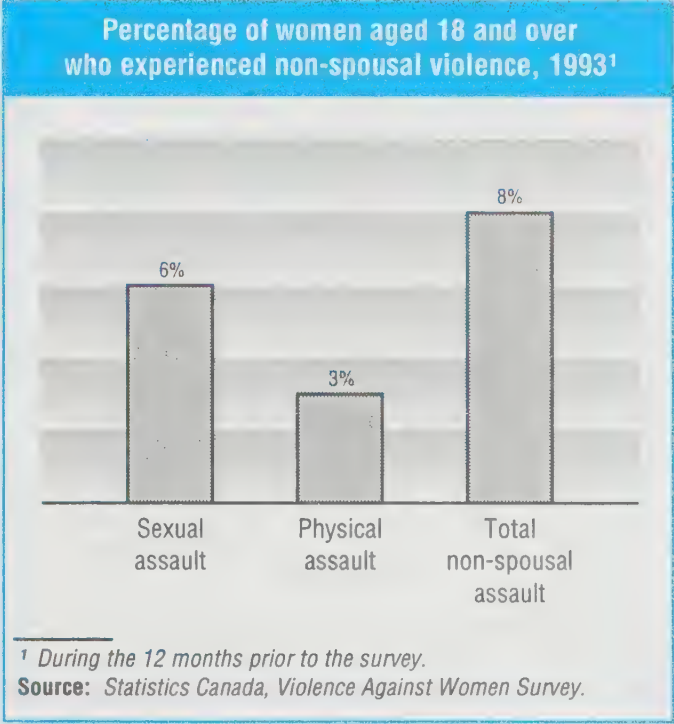


Chart 8.9



Young women are more likely than older women to be victims of non-spousal violence. In the 12 months prior to the survey, 23% of women aged 18-24 were assaulted by a date, boyfriend, acquaintance or stranger, compared with 11% of women aged 25-34 and 6% or less of those in groups aged 35 and over. (Chart 8.10)

As of 1993, a total of 4.4 million women aged 18 and over, 42% of all adult women in Canada, had experienced at least one incident of either non-spousal sexual or physical assault since the age of 16. In fact, over one in three women (37%) had been victims of sexual assault, while 17% had been physically assaulted. (Table 8.11)

As well, over half of women who had ever experienced sexual assault since the age of 16 had been assaulted on more than one occasion. As of 1993, 26% of female victims of sexual assault had experienced this type of violent incident on four or more occasions, while 11% had experienced three sexual assaults and 20% reported two such incidents.

As of 1993, over half (54%) of all incidents of non-spousal violence against women were perpetrated by men known to the victims. More specifically, 20% of non-spousal violent incidents against women were perpetrated by a date or boyfriend, while 34% were committed by other known men. Strangers were responsible for the remaining 45% of violent incidents. (Chart 8.11)

Sources of assistance for abused women

In most instances, women who experience violence do not contact formal organizations such as the police or

social service agencies for help. Indeed, only 14% of incidents of wife assault or non-spousal physical or sexual assault were reported to the police, while in just 9% of cases the victim contacted a social service agency. Rather, women most often sought the help of friends and neighbours (51%) or family members (42%) after these incidents. (Table 8.12)

However, many female victims of violence at the hands of men tell no one about their experience. As of 1993, victims of 22% of wife assault or other physical or sexual assault incidents had not told anyone about the experience prior to the Violence Against Women Survey.

Work-related sexual harassment¹²

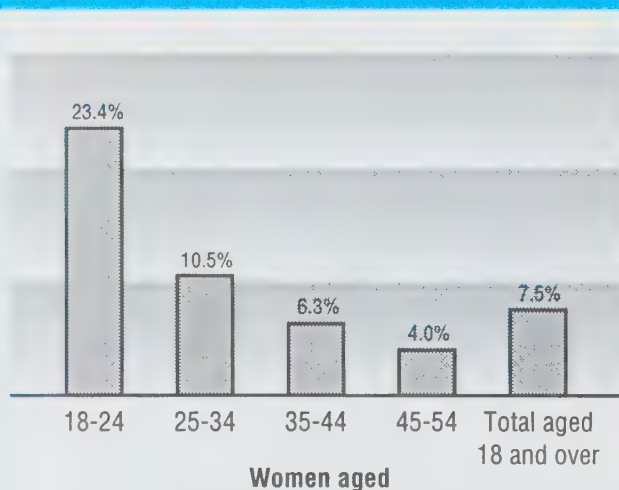
During the 12 months prior to the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey, 389,000 women, 6% of all employed women aged 18 and over, reported they had been subjected to sexual harassment in the workplace on at least one occasion.¹³ (Chart 8.12)

Young women were at the greatest risk of workplace sexual harassment. In 1993, 10% of employed women aged 18-24 reported that they had experienced work-related sexual harassment in the past 12 months, compared with 8% of those aged 25-34 and 6% of those in the 35-44 age range.

There are also differences in the incidence of sexual harassment depending on marital status. In 1993, 9% of employed women who were single and 8% of those who were divorced or separated reported they had experienced sexual harassment at work, versus 5% of married women.

Chart 8.10

Percentage of women aged 18 and over who experienced non-spousal violence, by age, 1993¹

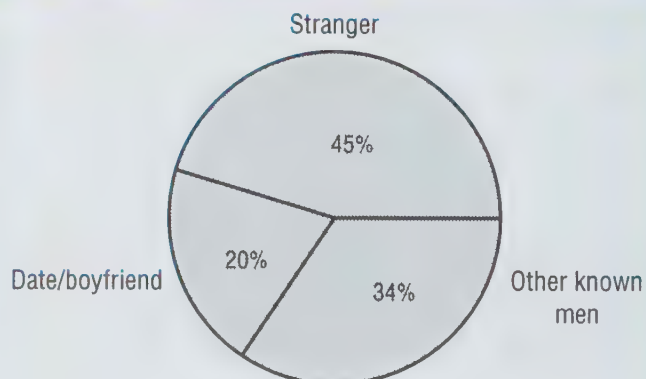


¹ During the 12 months prior to the survey.

Source: Statistics Canada, Violence Against Women Survey.

Chart 8.11

Percentage of non-spousal violent incidents ever experienced by women aged 18 and over, by relationship to assailant



Source: Statistics Canada, Violence Against Women Survey.

The most common form of workplace sexual harassment experienced by women involves inappropriate comments about their bodies and sex life. As of 1993, 77% of employed women who had ever been harassed at work reported that they had been subjected to this type of harassment at least once, while 73% had been made uncomfortable by a man either leaning over them unnecessarily, getting too close or cornering them. At the same time, 50% had been harassed by a man who repeatedly asked for a date, and 18% had been told that they could lose their jobs or their employment situations could be affected if they did not have a sexual relationship with him. (Chart 8.13)

Fear of crime

Women are much more likely than men to feel worried or unsafe about their personal security. For instance, 42% of women aged 15 and over reported they felt unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark, over four times the figure for men (10%). (Table 8.13)

Many women also feel worried when they are alone at home at night. In 1993, 37% of women aged 15 and over reported feeling very or somewhat worried when they were alone in their homes in the evening or at night, three times the figure for men (12%). (Table 8.14)

Young women are the most likely to be worried when home alone in the evening or at night. In 1993, 42% of women aged 15-24, compared with 39% of those aged 25-44, 37% of those aged 45-64, and 27% of senior women reported that they worried when they were alone in their homes in the evening or at night.

Crime prevention measures

Many women have begun to take special measures to protect themselves from crime. In 1993, 36% of women aged 15 and over reported that they either modified their activities or routines or began to avoid certain places specifically to protect themselves from crime. At the same time, 22% installed security devices such as new locks or burglar alarms, 5% changed their telephone number, 4% obtained a dog, and 4% took a self-defence course. As well, women were generally more likely than men to have adopted these behaviours to protect themselves from crime. (Chart 8.14)

In addition, many women routinely take measures to protect themselves from crime. For instance, in 1993, 68% of women reported that they routinely locked their car doors when alone, 58% planned their route for reasons of safety, 58% checked the back seat of their parked car before getting in, 24% stayed at home at night, and 17% carried some kind of weapon. Again, these figures were all considerably higher than those for men. (Chart 8.15)

Chart 8.12

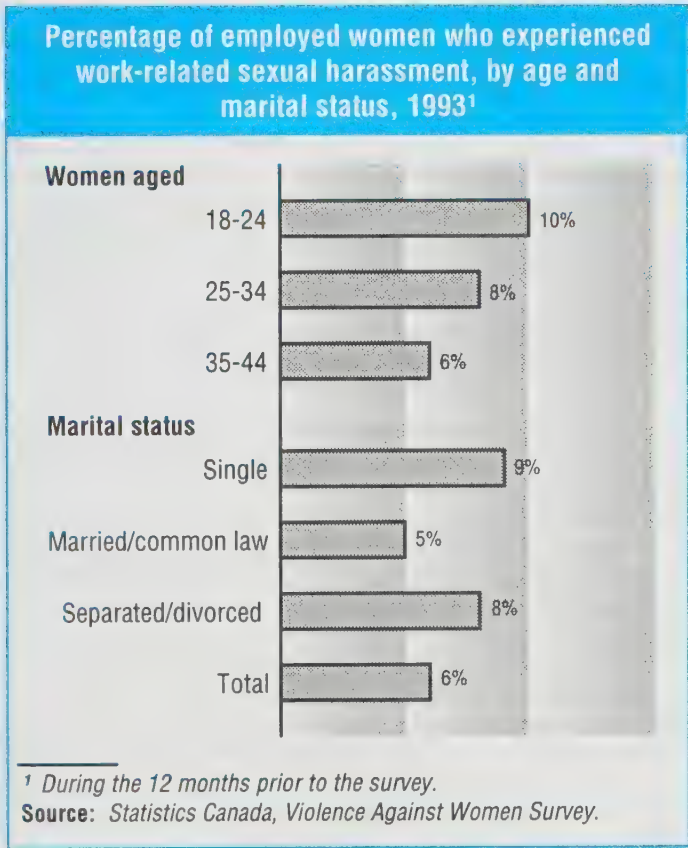
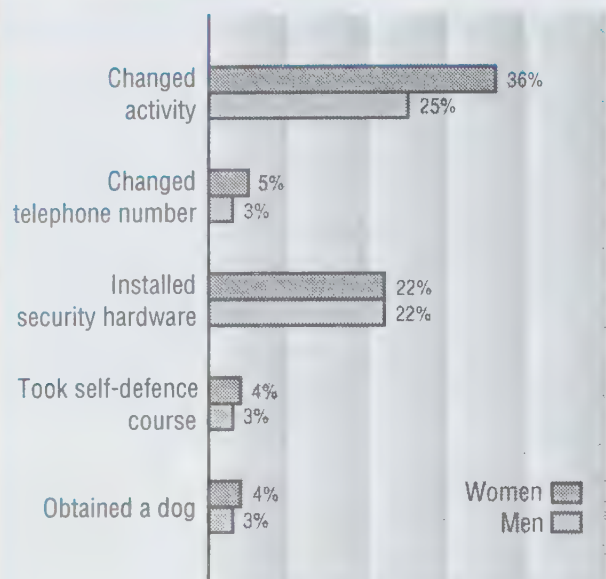


Chart 8.13



Chart 8.14

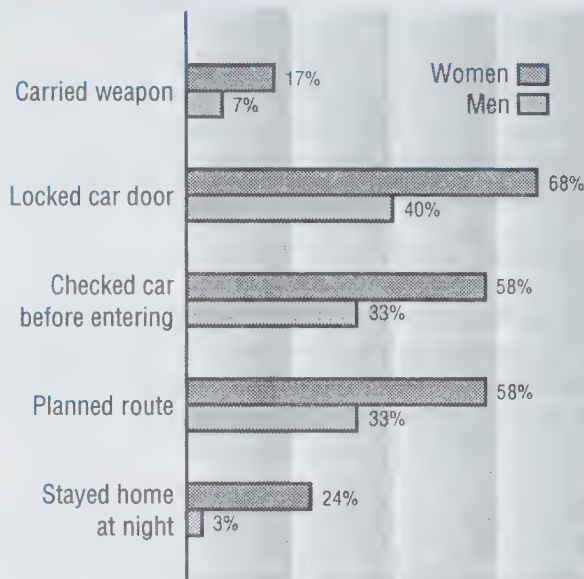
Percentage of persons aged 15 and over who adopted selected defensive behaviours, 1993



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Chart 8.15

Percentage of persons aged 15 and over who routinely did certain activities to protect themselves from crime, 1993



Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey.

Women in the police force

Women make up a relatively small share of all people employed in police forces across Canada, including police officers, civilians and other personnel. In 1993, women represented only 23% of total police personnel, although this figure has increased from 21% in 1990 and 15% in the early 1980s. (Table 8.15)

However, women make up an even smaller percentage of police officers. In 1993, women represented only 8% of all police officers, while they accounted for 66% of all civilian police personnel working in administrative support positions.¹⁴

Nevertheless, the number of women police officers has grown considerably in the last decade. Between 1980 and 1993, the number of female police officers more than quadrupled, while there was little change in the number of male officers. As a result, the representation of women among police officers rose from 2% to 8% over this period.

Women in law and jurisprudence occupations

There are also relatively few women employed in law and jurisprudence occupations. In 1991, just 37% of all judges and magistrates, lawyers and notaries, and people in related occupations, such as paralegals and law clerks, were women. (Table 8.16)

The representation of women in each of these three occupational groups also varies considerably. In 1991, women represented only 29% of lawyers, whereas they accounted for 70% of all persons employed in other related law and jurisprudence occupations.

As well, women made up only 20% of all judges and magistrates in Canada in 1991, although, this was up from 13% in 1986. In addition, Madame Justice Bertha Wilson became the first woman appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada in 1982. She was followed by Madame Justice Claire L'Heureux-Dubé in 1987 and Madame Justice Beverly McLachlin in 1989. By 1994, two out of nine judges on the Supreme Court of Canada were women.¹⁵

¹ Prostitution among consenting adults is not a crime in Canada, but it has been illegal to communicate publicly for the purposes of prostitution since 1986.

² For more information, see "Street Prostitution in Canada," by Lee Wolff and Dorota Geissel in **Canadian Social Trends**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-008E, Summer 1994.

³ Includes possession, trafficking and importation of heroin, cocaine, and cannabis, as well as cultivation of cannabis and trafficking of other controlled and restricted drugs.

⁴ Young offenders include persons aged 12-17.

⁵ People sentenced to two years or more are sent to federal penitentiaries, while those sentenced to less than two years are incarcerated in provincial facilities. These data are from Correctional Services Canada.

⁶ Refers to the 12-month period preceding the General Social Survey, which was conducted monthly throughout 1993.

⁷ The 1993 General Social Survey included questions concerning sexual assault that were not in the 1988 survey; as a result, the victimization rates in the two years are not strictly comparable.

⁸ Refers only to solved homicides.

⁹ It should be noted that since 1993, it has been a criminal offence in Canada to engage in threatening conduct directed at an individual or any member of her/his family. Bill C-126, or the **Anti-Stalking Law**, covers such actions as repeatedly following a person from place to place, repeatedly communicating with, and watching the dwelling where they reside, work or happen to be.

¹⁰ **Source:** Statistics Canada, Violence Against Women Survey.

¹¹ For more information, see "Women Assaulted by Strangers," by Carol Strike in **Canadian Social Trends**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-008E, Spring 1995.

¹² Sexual harassment, as defined by the 1993 Violence Against Women Survey, includes: making a woman uncomfortable by commenting inappropriately about her body or sex life;

repeatedly asking for a date and refusing to take 'no' for an answer; leaning over her unnecessarily, getting too close, or cornering her; and hinting that she could lose her job or that her employment situation might suffer if she did not have a sexual relationship with the harasser. For these actions to be classified as work-related sexual harassment, the perpetrator had to be the woman's boss, co-worker, client, customer, patient, or student.

¹³ For more, information see "Work-related Sexual Harassment," by Holly Johnson in **Perspectives on Labour and Income**, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 75-001E, Winter 1994.

¹⁴ Includes clerical support staff, communications and dispatch personnel, managers, professionals and other civilians.

¹⁵ **Source:** Office of the Commissioner for Federal Judicial Affairs.

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Table 8.1
Women and female youths charged with selected criminal offences, 1993

	Women charged	As a % of all adults charged	Female youths charged	As a % of all youths charged
Homicide	72	14.1	3	8.3
Attempted murder	99	14.0	9	12.9
Sexual assault	195	1.6	93	4.4
Other assaults	13,580	12.7	4,550	28.4
Other sexual offences	44	3.4	18	8.0
Abduction	77	30.6	5	71.4
Robbery	639	8.4	418	14.0
Total violent offences	14,706	11.4	5,096	23.7
Breaking and entering	1,698	5.0	1,564	7.1
Theft motor vehicles	522	5.4	828	10.1
Theft over \$1,000	1,219	18.0	229	13.3
Theft \$1,000 and under	26,472	35.2	10,859	33.3
Possession of stolen goods	3,885	18.0	1,519	18.9
Fraud	10,439	30.4	760	30.4
Total property offences	44,235	24.4	15,759	21.0
Prostitution	4,200	48.3	250	82.5
Other <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	19,143	13.9	5,226	17.3
Total <i>Criminal Code</i> offences	82,284	18.0	26,331	20.7
Drug offences	5,631	14.3	467	13.6
Other offences	22,140	13.0	4,692	23.1
Total all offences	110,055	16.5	31,490	20.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-205.

Table 8.2
Adults charged with drug-related offences, by type of offence, 1993

	Women		Men		Women as a % of those charged
	Total	%	Total	%	
Cannabis	3,015	53.5	20,768	61.4	12.7
Heroin	205	3.6	1,157	3.4	15.1
Cocaine	1,941	34.4	9,476	28.0	17.0
Restricted drugs-trafficking	81	1.4	658	1.9	11.0
Controlled drugs-trafficking	69	1.2	149	0.4	31.7
Other drug offences	320	5.7	1,585	4.7	16.8
Total	5,631	100.0	33,793	100.0	14.3

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 85-205.

Table 8.3
Sentenced admissions to provincial correctional facilities, 1988-89 to 1993-94

	Total admissions		Women as a % of total
	Women	Men	
1988-89	8,993	106,946	7.8
1989-90	9,183	105,894	8.0
1990-91	9,551	105,265	8.3
1993-94	10,696	109,180	8.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics.

Table 8.4
Persons aged 15 and over victimized in criminal incidents, by number of occurrences, 1988 and 1993¹

	1988		1993	
	000s	% victimized	000s	% victimized
Women				
Once	1,460	14	1,691	15
Twice or more	806	8	814	7
Total	2,266	22	2,505	23
Men				
Once	1,623	16	1,809	17
Twice or more	870	9	772	7
Total	2,493	25	2,582	24

¹Note that the 1993 survey included questions not included in the 1988 survey, therefore the numbers are not directly comparable.

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1988 and 1993.

Table 8.5
Personal victimization rates, by age, 1993

	Women	Men
Personal incidents per 1,000 population		
Persons aged		
15-24	333	304
25-44	178	135
45-64	74	73
65 and over	--	--
Total aged 15 and over	151	136

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993.

Table 8.6
Percentage of personal victimizations not reported to the police, by type of incident and reason for not reporting, 1993

	Dealt with another way	Too minor	Fear of revenge	Insurance wouldn't cover	Police couldn't do any- thing	Police wouldn't help	Did not want to get involved with police	Nothing taken	Personal matter	Other
%										
Women										
Sexual assault	70	--	--	--	30	--	49	--	69	--
Robbery/attempt	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assault	62	35	28	--	24	--	51	23	51	--
Total violent	64	32	30	--	27	14	50	24	57	16
Theft personal property/attempt	41	53	--	--	47	--	31	--	28	--
Total	58	38	24	11	33	14	45	19	49	17
Men										
Sexual assault	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Robbery/attempt	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Assault	65	61	--	--	31	--	43	21	47	--
Total violent	65	59	--	--	33	19	40	18	48	16
Theft personal property/attempt	46	54	--	--	46	--	38	--	37	--
Total	58	58	--	18	38	22	39	15	44	17

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993.

Table 8.7
Female victims of solved homicide offences,¹ by suspect-victim relationship, 1980-1993

	Domestic relationship		Acquaintances		Strangers	
	Female victims	Females as a % of total victims	Female victims	Females as a % of total victims	Female victims	Females as a % of total victims
1980	95	56.9	55	27.0	30	22.4
1981	108	55.1	59	27.7	42	32.1
1982	116	55.8	49	18.9	24	26.4
1983	124	57.1	63	23.2	21	32.8
1984	109	55.3	57	23.9	18	22.2
1985	130	57.5	62	24.8	19	20.9
1986	110	57.6	45	22.2	21	23.6
1987	118	55.4	55	22.1	20	26.3
1988	99	56.9	56	23.7	19	23.5
1989	120	60.3	60	22.5	29	38.7
1990	106	55.8	56	23.0	29	36.3
1991	127	62.3	82	26.8	18	24.0
1992	118	59.9	74	24.7	15	17.0
1993	97	59.1	55	21.7	9	12.3

¹One offence is counted for every victim. Includes homicide offences in which there are suspects.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8.8
Family relationship in solved family-related homicides, 1986-1993

	Wife killed by husband/ common-law partner	Husband killed by wife/ common-law partner	Parent killed by child	Child killed by parent	Sibling homicide	Other	Total	Total number of family-related homicides
	%							
1986	37.2	9.9	10.4	29.3	4.2	8.9	100.0	191
1987	37.1	15.7	7.1	19.5	7.6	12.9	100.0	210
1988	40.7	12.2	6.4	18.6	5.2	16.9	100.0	172
1989	38.6	11.2	8.1	21.8	5.1	15.2	100.0	197
1990	39.4	13.8	8.5	18.1	5.3	14.9	100.0	188
1991	43.6	12.3	11.8	19.1	8.3	4.9	100.0	204
1992	44.2	9.1	11.7	18.3	7.1	9.6	100.0	197
1993	38.4	14.6	9.1	23.2	1.8	12.8	100.0	164

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Homicide Survey.

Table 8.9
Ever-married¹ women aged 18 and over who ever experienced wife assault, by number of incidents

	Current marital partner		Previous marital partner		Total all partners	
	Total victimized 000s	%	Total victimized 000s	%	Total victimized 000s	%
Number of incidents						
1	604	59	435	24	922	35
2-5	224	22	387	22	593	22
6-10	73	7	188	11	242	9
11 or more	103	10	734	41	842	32
Not stated	--	--	38	2	54	2
Total	1,020	100	1,781	100	2,652	100
% of women victimized	15	...	48	...	29	...

¹Includes common-law unions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Violence Against Women Survey.

Table 8.10
Previously-married¹ women aged 18 and over who ever experienced violence by a previous partner, by occurrence after separation

	Number of incidents	
	000s	%
Occurred after separation		
Began after separation	27	8
Did not begin after separation	312	92
Total	339	100
Increased after separation	118	35
Did not increase after separation	217	64
Total	339	100
Total all incidents		
Occurred after separation	339	19
Did not occur after separation	1,437	81
Total	1,781	100

¹Includes common-law unions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Violence Against Women Survey.

Table 8.11
Percentage of women aged 18 and over who ever experienced non-spousal violence, by type and number of incidents

	Type of violence ¹				
	Sexual attack	Sexual touching	Total sexual assault	Physical assault	Total victimized
	%				
Number of incidents					
1	57	40	41	57	37
2	21	20	20	19	20
3	9	10	11	7	11
4 or more	13	27	26	16	30
Not stated	--	2	2	--	2
Total	100	100	100	100	100
Total victimized on at least 1 occasion	20.3	25.0	36.6	16.8	42.1
Total number of women victimized (000s)	2,134	2,624	3,841	1,768	4,416

¹Women reporting multiple types of violence are counted in more than one column.

Source: Statistics Canada, Violence Against Women Survey.

Table 8.12
Percentage of women aged 18 and over who ever experienced violence, by type and who they contacted for help

	Wife assault	Other assault ¹		Total
		Sexual assault	Physical assault	
Social service	24	6	10	9
Family	44	38	54	42
Friend/neighbour	45	51	57	51
Doctor	23	6	9	9
Minister/priest/clergy	7	2	--	2
Police	26	6	28	14
Total told someone ²	77	74	86	77
Told no one ³	22	25	14	22
Total	100	100	100	100
Total incidents (000s)	2,801	13,463	4,280	20,544

¹Includes assaults by strangers, dates, boyfriends and other known men.

²Columns may add up to more than 100% because of multiple responses.

³Told none of the services/persons listed.

Source: Statistics Canada, Violence Against Women Survey.

Table 8.13

Percentage of persons feeling safe or unsafe when walking alone in neighbourhood after dark, by age, 1993

	Very safe	Reasonably safe	Totally unsafe	Total
			%	
Women aged				
15-24	14	45	40	100
25-44	17	44	38	100
45-64	17	40	41	100
65 and over	13	22	57	100
Total aged 15 and over	16	40	42	100
Men aged				
15-24	50	43	7	100
25-44	51	40	9	100
45-64	47	42	11	100
65 and over	38	37	19	100
Total aged 15 and over	48	41	10	100

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993.

Table 8.14

Percentage of persons who worry when home alone in the evening or at night, by age, 1993

	Very worried	Somewhat worried	Total very or somewhat worried	Not at all worried	Total
			%		
Women aged					
15-24	8	35	42	58	100
25-44	7	32	39	61	100
45-64	8	29	37	63	100
65 and over	6	21	27	73	100
Total aged 15 and over	7	30	37	63	100
Men aged					
15-24	--	10	11	89	100
25-44	2	9	11	89	100
45-64	--	10	11	89	100
65 and over	--	16	17	83	100
Total aged 15 and over	1	10	12	88	100

Source: Statistics Canada, General Social Survey, 1993.

Table 8.15
Total police personnel,¹ 1980-1993

	Police officers		Other personnel ²		Total police personnel	
	Women	Women as a % of total	Women	Women as a % of total	Women	Women as a % of total
1980	1,160	2.2	8,531	62.6	9,691	14.6
1981	1,339	2.4	8,993	63.7	10,332	15.2
1982	1,437	2.7	9,450	64.1	10,887	15.9
1983	1,454	2.7	9,262	64.3	10,716	15.9
1984	1,679	3.2	9,414	64.7	11,093	16.4
1985	1,946	3.6	9,762	66.4	11,708	17.2
1986	1,994	3.9	10,118	56.7	12,112	17.4
1987	2,305	4.4	10,447	54.6	12,752	17.8
1988	2,708	5.1	10,860	57.2	13,568	18.8
1989	3,143	5.8	11,343	59.4	14,486	19.8
1990	3,573	6.4	11,922	63.4	15,495	20.7
1991	3,964	7.0	11,826	64.0	16,173	21.3
1992	4,286	7.5	12,636	64.4	16,922	22.1
1993	4,556	8.0	12,800	65.7	17,356	22.7

¹Represents police personnel strength as of December 31 of each year.

²Prior to 1986, this category included cadets and other full-time employees. From 1986 onward, this category includes special constables and other personnel, that is, civilians, cadets, and auxiliaries.

Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Police Administration Survey.

Table 8.16
Women in law and jurisprudence occupations, 1986 and 1991

	1986			1991		
	Total	%	Women as a % of total in group	Total	%	Women as a % of total in group
Judges and magistrates	290	1.8	12.5	530	2.0	20.0
Lawyers and notaries	9,145	56.6	21.8	15,610	60.0	29.1
Other related occupations in law and jurisprudence	6,415	39.7	64.0	9,100	35.0	70.4
Not stated	320	2.0	32.7	790	3.0	39.7
Total	16,170	100.0	29.2	26,030	100.0	36.6

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue, 93-327.

IMMIGRANT WOMEN

by Nancy Ghalam

A relatively stable population

Many women in Canada are immigrants from another country.¹ In 1991, there were 2.2 million female immigrants living in Canada,² representing just over 16% of the total female population. Similarly, 2.1 million male immigrants lived in Canada that year, also accounting for 16% of the male population. (Table 9.1)

The share of immigrants in the female population has increased slightly since 1951. In 1991, 16% of women of all ages were immigrants, up from 15% in 1971 and 14% in 1951. However, the percentage of immigrant women in the female population is considerably lower at present than it was in 1921 and 1931, when immigrants accounted for as much as 20% of the female population in Canada (Chart 9.1)

Annual flows of immigrants

Currently, about half of all people who immigrate to Canada each year are female. According to Citizenship and Immigration Canada, 51% of all people who immigrated to Canada in 1992 were female, a percentage that has remained relatively stable over the past three decades. (Chart 9.2)

The number of women entering Canada each year, though, has changed with overall levels of immigration. For

instance, the number of female immigrants arriving annually has increased steadily since the mid-1980s, rising from 50,100 in 1986 to 127,800 in 1992.

Many women immigrate in family class

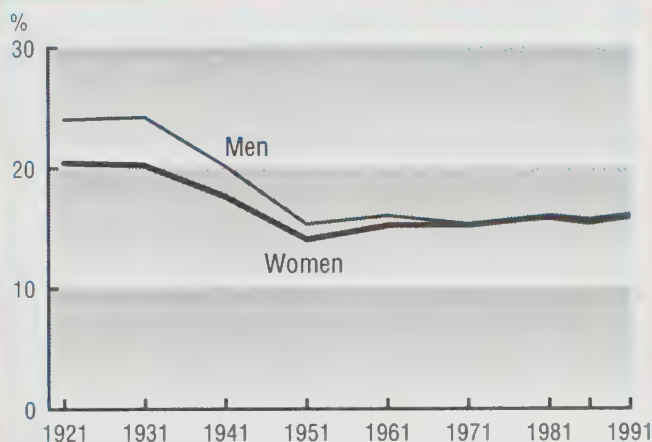
The largest share of women immigrating to Canada enter as family class immigrants. In 1992, 45% of female immigrants arrived in Canada as family class immigrants, while 32% were independent immigrants, 9% were Convention refugees, 8% were assisted relatives, and 7% belonged to designated groups. (Table 9.2)

However, the proportion of female immigrants arriving as family class immigrants has varied considerably over the past decade. For example, the percentage of all women immigrating in the family class fell from a high of 60% in 1983 to 36% in 1989. Between 1989 and 1992, though, this figure increased steadily, rising to 45% in 1992.

In general, female immigrants to Canada are more likely than their male counterparts to have immigrated under the provisions of the family class. In 1992, 45% of female

Chart 9.1

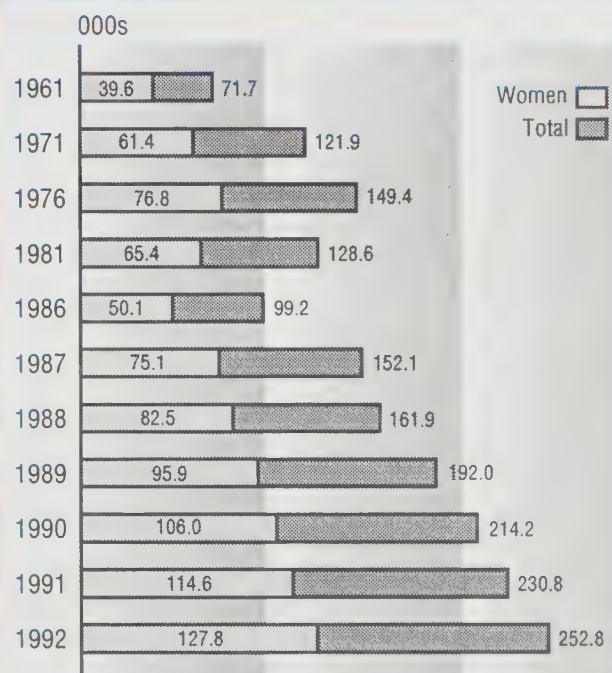
Immigrants as a percentage of the total population, 1921-1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogues 92-913, 93-109, 93-310 and 93-316.

Chart 9.2

Annual number of immigrants to Canada, 1961-1992



Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Immigration Statistics*.

Canada's immigration classes

Under Canada's present immigration law, there are three broad classes of immigrants: family class, refugees, and independent immigrants. The family class includes people sponsored by close relatives living in Canada. Refugees may be either Convention refugees or members of designated classes. Convention refugees include persons who are unable or unwilling to return to their home country because of fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership in a particular social group. Members of designated classes include persons displaced by emergency situations, as well as those whom Canada has recognized as a special class for humanitarian reasons. Independent immigrants include all other persons applying on their own initiative. This group includes assisted relatives and other independent immigrants, such as skilled workers, entrepreneurs, investors, and self-employed persons.

immigrants, versus 34% of male immigrants, entered as family class immigrants. Indeed, from 1981 to 1992, 361,400 women were admitted to Canada in this class, compared with 262,300 men.

In contrast, immigrant women are less likely than men to have received their landed immigrant status on humanitarian grounds. In 1992, 9% of all female immigrants, compared with 14% of male immigrants, were admitted to Canada as refugees. Similarly, only 7% of immigrant women, versus 11% of men, were accepted as members of refugee designated classes that year. Overall, women accounted for 39% of Convention refugees and 41% of those belonging to designated groups who were admitted to Canada between 1981 and 1992.³

Most immigrant women are Canadian citizens

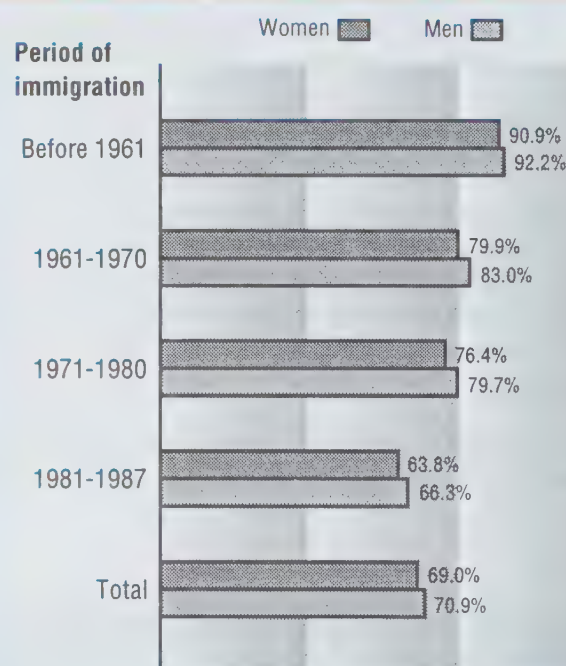
Most immigrant women living in Canada have become naturalized Canadian citizens. In 1991, 69% of female immigrants who were eligible had become Canadian citizens. Indeed, 91% of women who immigrated before 1961 were Canadian citizens in 1991, along with 80% of women who arrived from 1961-1970, 76% of those who immigrated from 1971-1980, and 64% of those who immigrated from 1981-1987.⁴ These figures were much the same as those for male immigrants, although in all these groups, female immigrants were slightly less likely than men to have obtained Canadian citizenship. (Chart 9.3)

Country of origin changing

There have been major shifts in the country of birth of female immigrants to Canada in recent years. For example, women born in Asia or the Middle East made up 52% of all immigrant women living in Canada in 1991 who arrived between 1988-1991, while just 4% were born in the United Kingdom and 19% in other parts of Europe. In contrast, among immigrant women living in Canada in 1991 who immigrated in the 1961-1970 period, 12% were born in Asia and the Middle East, while 22% were born in the United Kingdom and 46% in other parts of Europe. These trends

Chart 9.3

Percentage of immigrants with Canadian citizenship, by period of immigration, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-316.

were much the same as those for male immigrants. (Table 9.3)

Provincial distribution of immigrant women

The majority of female immigrants in Canada live in the three most populous provinces. In 1991, 85% of all immigrant women lived in Ontario, British Columbia or Québec, compared with 56% of the total female population. That year, 55% of all female immigrants lived in Ontario, while 17% were in British Columbia and 13% lived in Québec. (Table 9.1)

In fact, nearly one-quarter of the female population in Ontario and British Columbia are immigrants. In 1991, 24% of women in Ontario were immigrants, as were 23% of those living in British Columbia. At the same time, 15% of the female population in Alberta were immigrants, as were 13% of that in Manitoba. In contrast, 9% of women living in Québec, 6% of those in Saskatchewan, and fewer than 5% of women in each of the Atlantic provinces were immigrants.

Immigrant women in census metropolitan areas

Immigrant women also make up a relatively large proportion of the female population in several of the largest census metropolitan areas in Canada. In 1991, 39% of the female population in Toronto and 31% of that in Vancouver were immigrants. Immigrants also represented 24% of female residents in Hamilton, 21% of those in Calgary, 19% in London, 18% in Winnipeg and Edmonton, 17% in Montréal, and 15% in Ottawa-Hull. (Chart 9.4)

Immigrant women tend to be older

Immigrant women tend to be older, on average, than their Canadian-born counterparts. In 1991, 19% of immigrant women living in Canada were aged 65 and over, almost twice the figure for the rest of the female population (11%). As well, 30% of immigrant women, versus 18% of

Canadian-born women, were aged 45-64. On the other hand, a smaller percentage of immigrant women than other women were in the 15-24 age range: 9% versus 15%.⁵ (Table 9.4)

Similar to trends in the total population, immigrant women tend to be somewhat older, on average, than immigrant men. For example, 19% of immigrant women were aged 65 and over in 1991, versus 16% of immigrant men.

Family status of immigrant women aged 15-64

As with the majority of their Canadian-born counterparts, most immigrant women aged 15-64 live with their family.⁶ In 1991, 87% of non-elderly immigrant women were either partners in a two-spouse family, lone parents, or never-married daughters living at home. In comparison, 85% of Canadian-born women aged 15-64 lived with their family. (Table 9.5)

However, immigrant women are more likely than other women in Canada to be partners in two-spouse families. In 1991, 69% of immigrant women aged 15-64 were wives or common-law spouses, compared with 61% of other Canadian women in this age range. At the same time, 8% of both immigrant and Canadian-born women were lone parents that year, while a slightly smaller share of female immigrants (13%) than Canadian-born women (15%) did not live with their family.

As is the case for women in general, immigrant women are much more likely than immigrant men to be lone parents. In 1991, 8% of immigrant women aged 15-64 were lone parents, compared with 2% of immigrant men.

Most senior immigrant women not living with their family

In contrast to their counterparts under age 65, most senior immigrant women do not live with their family. In 1991, 51% of immigrant women aged 65 and over lived alone, with unrelated persons, or with members of their extended family, while 43% were wives or common-law spouses and 6% were lone mothers. These figures were all about the same as those for senior women who were born in Canada. (Table 9.5)

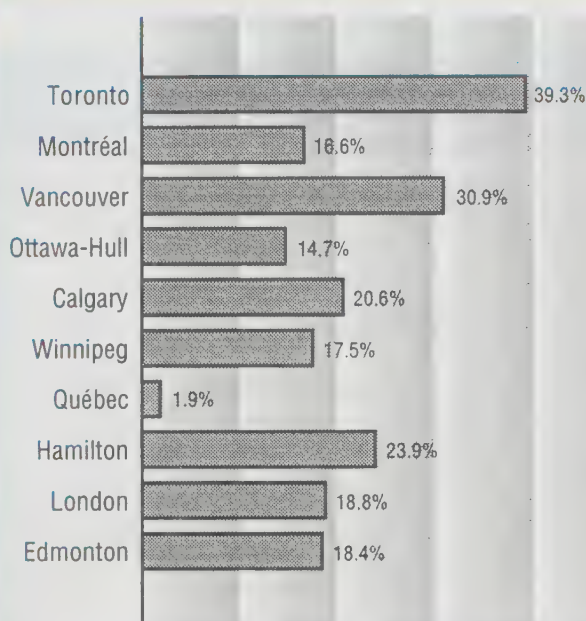
However, senior immigrant women were more than twice as likely as immigrant men aged 65 and over not to live with their family, 51% versus 21%, while they were less likely to be spouses, 43% versus 77%. Again, these trends were similar to those for senior women and men in the Canadian-born population.

Lifetime fertility rates

Immigrant women tend to have slightly more children than women born in Canada. In 1991, there were an average of 1,816 children ever born for every 1,000 immigrant women

Chart 9.4

Immigrants as a percentage of the female population in Canada's 10 largest census metropolitan areas, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-316.

aged 15-44, compared with 1,738 for every 1,000 Canadian-born women in this age range. (Chart 9.5)

There is also considerable variation in the lifetime fertility rates of immigrant women from different countries. In 1991, for example, there were 2,341 children ever born for every 1,000 women from Central America, while the figures were around 2,000 for women from West Asia and the Middle East, Southern Europe, and the Caribbean. In contrast, the lifetime fertility rates for women born in Eastern Europe or in East Asia were only about 1,500.

One result of slightly higher fertility rates among immigrant women is that they tend to have larger families. In 1991, for example, 17% of immigrant women in two-spouse families, versus 13% of their Canadian-born counterparts, had three or more children. Similarly, immigrant women who were lone parents were more likely than other female lone parents to have three or more children: 16% versus 12%. (Chart 9.6)

Most immigrant women speak an official language

A large majority of immigrant women living in Canada speak at least one of Canada's official languages. In 1991, 78% of immigrant women could conduct a conversation in

English, while 4% spoke only French and 11% spoke both official languages. At the same time, 8% of immigrant women could not conduct a conversation in either official language. (Table 9.6)

Women who are recent immigrants to Canada are more likely than other immigrant women not to speak an official language. In 1991, 13% of female immigrants who arrived between 1981-1991 could not conduct a conversation in either English or French, compared with 8% of women who immigrated between 1971-1980 and only 4% of those who arrived before 1961. These figures are not surprising, since women who have lived in Canada for longer periods of time have also had more time to acquire one of the official languages.

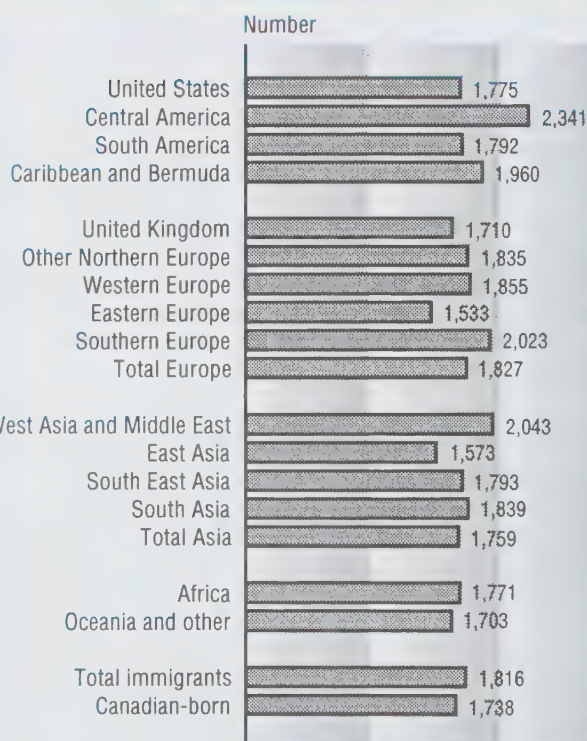
Immigrant women are more likely than immigrant men not to be able to speak one of the official languages. In 1991, 8% of all immigrant women, versus just 5% of immigrant men, could not conduct a conversation in either French or English. In fact, no matter how long they have lived in Canada, immigrant women were more likely than men to speak neither English nor French.

Educational attainment⁷

Immigrant women under age 65 are slightly more likely than their Canadian-born counterparts to have a university degree. In 1991, 14% of immigrant women aged 15-64 were university graduates, versus 11% of other women in this age range. In addition, about the same percentage of immigrant and Canadian-born women had some other postsecondary training that year: 37% versus 38%. (Table 9.7)

Chart 9.5

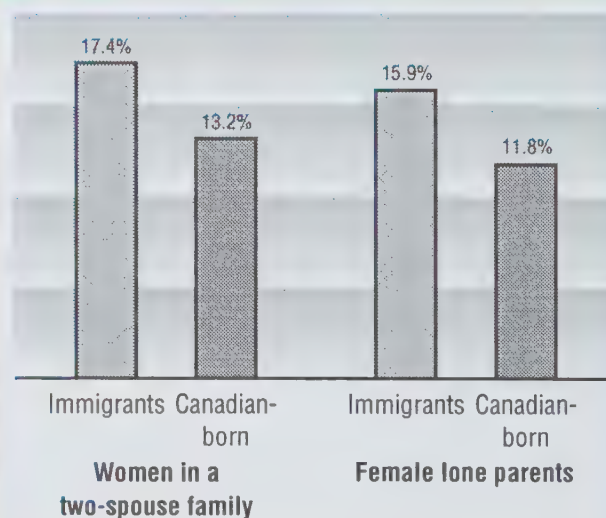
Children ever born per 1,000 immigrant and Canadian-born women aged 15-44, by place of birth, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chart 9.6

Percentage of immigrant and Canadian-born women with 3 or more children, by family status, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

However, immigrant women are also twice as likely as their Canadian-born counterparts to have less than 9 years of schooling. In 1991, 16% of immigrant women aged 15-64 had a Grade 9 education or less, compared with 8% of other women.

Senior immigrant women are particularly likely to have little formal education. In 1991, 43% of immigrant women aged 65 and over had less than a Grade 9 education, compared with 38% of senior women born in Canada. However, about the same percentage of immigrant and Canadian-born women aged 65 and over had a university degree in 1991 (3%).

Like other women in Canada, immigrant women tend to have less formal education than their male counterparts. For instance, 14% of female immigrants aged 15-64 had a university degree in 1991, compared with 19% of male immigrants. Similarly, at the other end of the scale, 16% of immigrant women, versus 12% of immigrant men, had less than a Grade 9 education. In fact, these differences are larger than those separating the educational attainment of Canadian-born women and men.

Education and period of immigration

There are few variations in the educational attainment of immigrant women who arrived during different periods. For example, 15% of immigrant women living in Canada in 1991 who immigrated between 1981 and 1991 had a university degree, compared with 14% of those who arrived in either the 1971-1980 or the 1961-1970 periods. Women who immigrated before 1961 were less likely to have postsecondary education, although this may largely be a reflection of the fact that, in general, senior women tend to have low levels of formal education. (Table 9.8)

However, immigrant women tend to have lower levels of educational attainment than their male counterparts, whatever their period of immigration. For instance, among those who immigrated between 1981 and 1991, women were less likely than men to be university graduates in 1991, 15% versus 20%, while they were more likely to have less than a Grade 9 education, 16% versus 11%.

Employment of immigrant women

About the same proportion of immigrant and Canadian-born women are employed. In 1991,⁸ 62% of female immigrants aged 15-64 were employed, while the figure was 63% for their Canadian-born counterparts. Similarly, among those aged 65 and over, 5% of both immigrant and Canadian-born women were employed that year. (Table 9.9)

Among immigrant women, those aged 25-54 have the highest rates of employment. In 1991, 70% of female immigrants aged 25-44 and 68% of those aged 45-54 were employed. This compared with 53% of immigrant women aged 15-24, 38% of those aged 55-64, and just 5% of those aged 65 and over.

However, immigrant women are less likely than their male counterparts to be employed. In 1991, 62% of female immigrants aged 15-64 had jobs, compared with 78% of male immigrants in this age range. As well, senior immigrant women were three times less likely than senior immigrant men to be employed: 5% versus 14%. These differences were similar to those recorded between the employment levels of Canadian-born women and men.

Recent immigrant women less likely to be employed

Women who recently immigrated to Canada are generally less likely to be employed than those with longer Canadian residence. In 1991, 49% of women who immigrated from 1986-1991 and 54% of those who arrived during the 1981-1985 period were employed, compared with over 60% of immigrant women who arrived between 1961 and 1980. (Chart 9.7)

Immigrant women less likely to work part-time

Employed immigrant women are less likely than Canadian-born women to work part-time. In 1991,⁸ 23% of employed immigrant women aged 15-64 had part-time jobs, compared with 28% of Canadian-born women. Nonetheless, immigrant women were three times more likely than their male counterparts to work part-time in 1991: 23% versus 8%. (Chart 9.8)

Chart 9.7

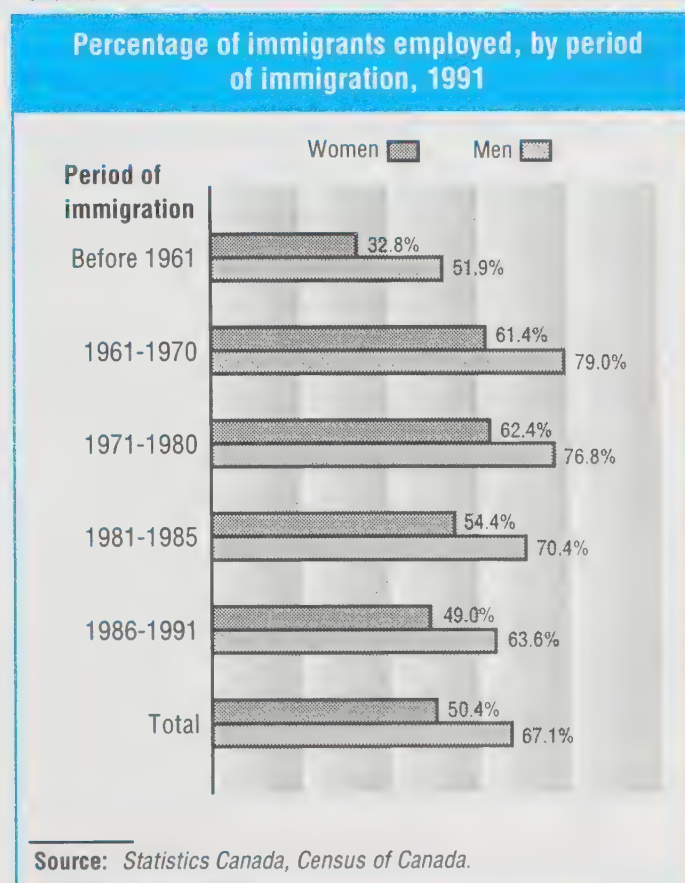
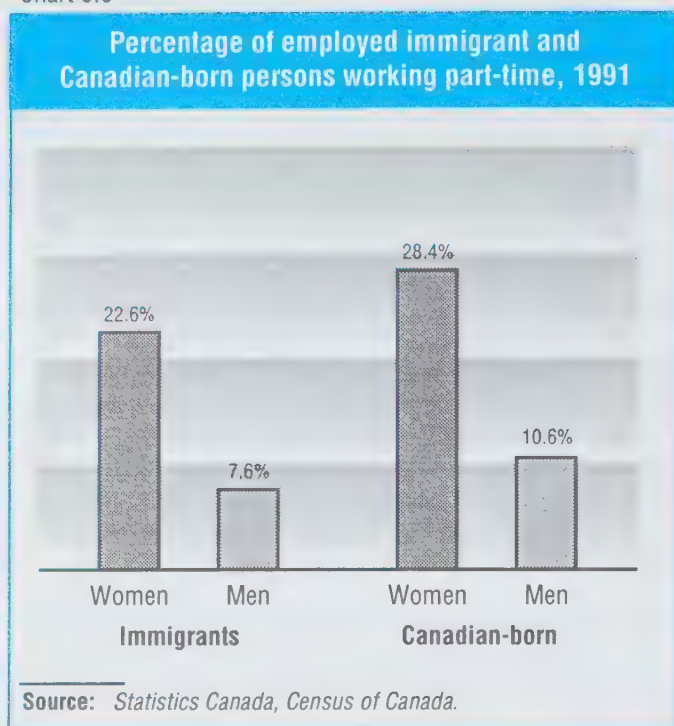


Chart 9.8



Occupation of immigrant women

Like other employed women, immigrant women tend to be concentrated in occupations traditionally held by women. In 1991,⁸ 53% of employed female immigrants worked in clerical, sales or service jobs. This was lower than the figure for Canadian-born women (58)%, but double that for immigrant men (26%). (Table 9.10)

At the same time, female immigrants are about as likely as both Canadian-born women and immigrant men to be employed as managers and professionals. In 1991, 31% employed immigrant women held either professional or managerial positions, compared with 33% of other Canadian women and 32% of immigrant men.

As with other women, though, relatively few immigrant women are employed in traditionally male-dominated trades. In 1991, 16% of employed immigrant women worked in construction, product fabrication, or primary and processing occupations, compared with 42% of immigrant men. However, the percentage of immigrant women working in these trades was higher than the figure for Canadian-born women (10%). This difference is largely attributable to the higher percentage of immigrant women working in product-fabricating occupations. In 1991, 8% of employed immigrant women held jobs related to the fabrication, assembly, and repair of products, versus just 2% of other employed women.

Unemployment among immigrant women

Immigrant women in Canada tend to experience slightly higher levels of unemployment than either Canadian-born

women or immigrant men. In 1991,⁸ the unemployment rate of immigrant women aged 15 and over was 10.7%, compared with 10.0% for Canadian-born women and 9.7% for immigrant men. (Table 9.11)

The unemployment rate is particularly high among young immigrant women. In 1991, immigrant women aged 15-24 had an unemployment rate of 16.0%, compared with 10.9% among those aged 25-44 and 10.0% or less for those in older age groups. Although these trends are similar to those for Canadian-born women, unemployment rates tended to be somewhat higher for immigrant women than their Canadian-born counterparts in all age ranges.

As well, for most age groups, female immigrants in the labour force are somewhat more likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed. The only exception was the 15-24 age range, where the unemployment rate was lower for immigrant women than for immigrant men in 1991: 16.0% versus 17.6%.

Unemployment rates higher for recent immigrants

Recent female immigrants experience higher levels of unemployment than those with longer Canadian residence. For example, the unemployment rate of immigrant women in 1991 was 18.4% for those who arrived from 1986-1991 and 13.5% for those who arrived from 1981-1985. In contrast, unemployment rates were 10.1% for women who immigrated between 1971-1980, 7.8% for those who arrived between 1961-1970, and 6.9% for those who immigrated before 1961. Immigrant women, though, experience higher levels of unemployment than immigrant men for all periods of immigration. (Chart 9.9)

Immigrant women not in the labour force

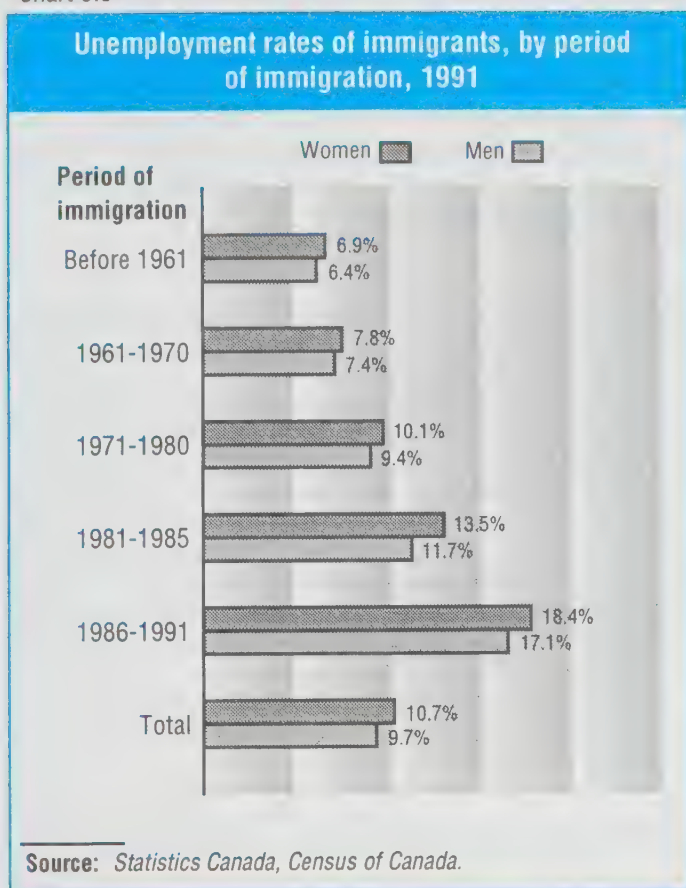
About the same percentages of immigrant and Canadian-born women do not to participate in the labour force. In 1991,⁸ 31% of immigrant women aged 15-64 and 30% of their Canadian-born counterparts were not in the labour force. Similarly, among those aged 65 and over, 94% of women in both groups were not active in the labour force. (Table 9.12)

However, at all ages, immigrant women are more likely than their male counterparts not to be part of the labour force. The gap was especially large for the 45-54 age group: 25% of immigrant women, versus just 7% of immigrant men in this age range, were not labour force participants in 1991.

Average income of immigrant women⁹

The average incomes of immigrant and Canadian-born women are about the same. In 1990, the average personal income of immigrant women aged 15 and over was \$15,900, versus \$15,400 for other women in Canada. (Table 9.13)

Chart 9.9



As in the overall population, immigrant women aged 45-54 have higher incomes than those in other age groups. In 1990, 45-54-year-old immigrant women had an average income of \$19,700, compared with \$17,900 for women aged 25-44 and around \$14,000 for women aged 55-64 and 65 and over. Immigrant women in the 15-24 age range had the lowest average incomes, just \$6,700 in 1990.

While the incomes of immigrant and Canadian-born women are quite similar in most age groups under age 65, the incomes of senior immigrant women are considerably lower than those of senior women born in Canada. In 1990, the average income of immigrant women aged 65 and over was \$14,200, \$1,200 lower than the income of their Canadian-born contemporaries (\$15,400).

As with Canadian-born women, immigrant women have considerably lower incomes than immigrant men. In fact, the incomes of immigrant women aged 15 and over were just 52% those of their male counterparts in 1990. This pattern was consistent for immigrants in all age groups; the ratio of women's incomes to those of men ranged from a high of 84% for immigrants aged 15-24 to a low of 40% for those in the 55-64 age group.

Immigrant women more likely to have low incomes

Approximately one in five immigrant women living in Canada have incomes which fall below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs.⁹ In 1990, 21% of all immigrant women aged 15 and over lived with low incomes, compared with 16% of other Canadian women and 18% of immigrant men. (Table 9.14)

The higher overall incidence of low income among immigrant women is largely attributable to the fact that female immigrants in certain age groups are particularly likely to have incomes which fall below the Low Income Cut-offs. For example, female immigrant children under age 18 were more than twice as likely as female Canadian-born children to live in a low-income situation in 1990: 37% versus 17%. The incidence of low income was also higher for senior immigrant women (26%) than for other senior women (22%) or immigrant men (17%).

Earnings of immigrant women

Like other women under age 65, immigrant women receive the bulk of their personal income in the form of employment earnings.⁹ In 1990, 79% of the income of immigrant women aged 15-64 came from wages and salaries and net income from self-employment. This was about the same as the figure for Canadian-born women in this age range (78%). However, immigrant women aged 15-64 received a smaller share of their income from these sources than their male counterparts (86%). (Table 9.15)

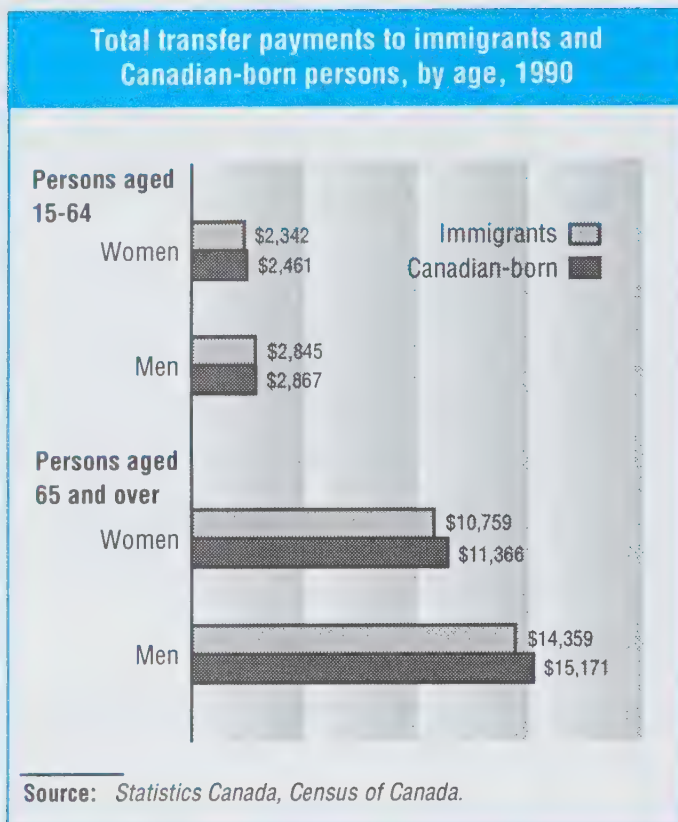
On average, immigrant women working on a full-time, full-year basis earn about the same amount as other women in Canada. In 1990, immigrant women aged 15-64 earned \$26,600 from their employment activity, while women born in Canada earned \$26,500. In fact, the employment earnings of immigrant and other women were about equal in all age groups. (Table 9.16)

Like women in general, though, immigrant women earn considerably less than their male counterparts. In 1990, immigrant women employed on a full-time, full-year basis earned just 65% as much as immigrant men. Again, this trend persisted across all age groups, with women earning only around 60% as much as men in both the 45-54 and 55-64 age ranges.

Transfer payments

Immigrant women aged 15-64 receive a slightly smaller share of their incomes from government transfer payments⁹ than their Canadian-born counterparts. In 1990, transfer payments accounted for 12% of the total income of non-elderly immigrant women, versus 14% of that of women born in Canada. On the other hand, only 8% of the income of immigrant men aged 15-64 came from this source. (Table 9.15)

Chart 9.10



In contrast to immigrant women aged 15-64, government transfer payments make up the largest source of income for immigrant women aged 65 and over. In 1990, transfer payments accounted for 74% of the income of senior immigrant women. This was about the same as the figure for senior women born in Canada (73%), while it was higher than that for senior immigrant men (61%).

Nonetheless, the average dollar amount of all transfer payments received by immigrant women is smaller than that received by other women or immigrant men. For

example, among those under age 65, immigrant women received an average of \$2,300 in transfer payments in 1990, compared with \$2,500 for other women and \$2,800 for immigrant men. Similarly, among those aged 65 and over, immigrant women received an average of \$10,800 in government transfers, compared with \$11,400 for Canadian-born senior women and \$14,400 received by senior immigrant men. (Chart 9.10)

¹ For more information on immigrants, see *Canada's Changing Immigrant Population*, by Jane Badets and Tina W.L. Chui, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 96-311E.

² Immigrants include people who are not Canadian citizens by birth, but who have been granted landed immigrant status, that is, they have the right to live in Canada permanently.

³ For more information on this topic, see "Canada's Refugee Flows, Gender Inequality," by Monica Boyd in *Canadian Social Trends*, Statistics Canada, Catalogue 11-008E, Spring, 1994.

⁴ Data were not applicable for the 1987-1991 period of arrival, since landed immigrants are not eligible to apply for Canadian Citizenship until they have satisfied a minimum requirement of three years of Canadian residence.

⁵ Children born in Canada to landed immigrants are Canadian citizens by birth, and as such, are not included as part of the immigrant population.

⁶ In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

⁷ Refers to highest level of educational attainment at the time of the 1991 Census. It is not known whether immigrant women obtained their education before or after their arrival in Canada.

⁸ Data on labour force refer to the week prior to the 1991 Census.

⁹ See Chapter 7 for definitions.

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Table 9.1
The immigrant population, by province and territory, 1991

	Women			Men		
	Number (000s)	%	As a % of the female population in province/territory	Number (000s)	%	As a % of the male population in province/territory
Newfoundland	3.9	0.2	1.4	4.6	0.2	1.6
Prince Edward Island	2.2	0.1	3.3	2.0	0.1	3.1
Nova Scotia	20.2	0.9	4.4	18.9	0.9	4.3
New Brunswick	12.8	0.6	3.5	11.2	0.5	3.2
Quebec	293.4	13.3	8.5	297.8	14.0	9.0
Ontario	1,213.4	54.8	24.3	1,155.7	54.3	23.8
Manitoba	70.8	3.2	13.0	67.8	3.2	12.7
Saskatchewan	30.3	1.4	6.2	27.4	1.3	5.7
Alberta	192.6	8.7	15.4	189.0	8.9	15.0
British Columbia	370.8	16.8	22.9	352.4	16.5	22.0
Yukon	1.4	0.1	10.2	1.6	0.1	11.3
Northwest Territories	1.2	0.1	4.3	1.6	0.1	5.4
Canada	2,212.9	100.0	16.3	2,130.0	100.0	16.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-316.

Table 9.2
Immigrants, by class of immigration, 1981-1992

	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
	%											
Family class												
Women	44.7	46.6	59.9	54.1	50.4	48.0	40.9	36.6	35.6	38.1	42.2	44.7
Men	34.4	35.7	48.5	44.4	40.6	37.0	29.7	26.6	27.7	30.6	32.7	34.3
Convention refugees												
Women	0.4	1.1	3.3	4.7	5.3	5.1	3.9	4.0	4.2	4.2	6.3	8.8
Men	0.8	1.9	6.1	8.3	9.3	8.0	5.9	6.8	6.4	6.4	9.6	13.9
Designated classes												
Women	9.5	10.5	8.4	8.2	9.9	10.4	7.7	9.2	11.7	10.9	11.6	6.9
Men	12.5	14.5	14.2	14.3	15.7	15.2	10.8	13.2	16.2	15.4	18.7	11.4
Assisted relative class												
Women	13.0	9.6	5.7	9.6	8.6	5.6	7.7	9.0	10.7	11.4	9.4	7.6
Men	14.4	10.1	5.5	8.9	9.0	6.3	8.4	10.2	11.7	12.2	9.9	8.1
Independent class ¹												
Women	32.3	32.2	22.8	23.4	25.8	30.9	39.8	41.2	37.8	35.4	30.4	32.0
Men	37.8	37.7	25.7	24.0	25.4	33.6	45.2	43.1	37.9	35.3	29.1	32.2
Total												
Women	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total number of immigrants (000s)												
Women	65.4	61.6	47.7	47.3	44.0	50.1	75.1	82.5	95.9	106.0	114.6	127.8
Men	63.1	59.4	41.5	40.9	40.3	49.1	77.0	79.4	96.1	108.3	116.2	125.0

¹Includes self-employed, entrepreneurs, investors, retired and others.

Source: Citizenship and Immigration Canada, *Immigration Statistics*.

Table 9.3
Immigrants living in Canada, by place of birth and period of immigration, 1991

	Period of immigration											
	Before 1961		1961-1970		1971-1980		1981-1987		1988-1991		Total	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%											
Place of birth												
United States	5.9	4.0	7.1	6.3	7.9	6.8	6.4	5.0	3.4	2.7	6.4	5.1
Central America	0.2	0.1	0.4	0.3	0.9	0.9	4.1	4.6	4.4	4.6	1.6	1.6
South America	0.4	0.4	2.0	2.0	6.1	6.0	6.2	5.8	4.7	4.6	3.5	3.4
Caribbean/Bermuda	0.7	0.6	6.2	4.9	10.4	8.8	8.1	6.2	5.8	4.9	5.9	4.8
United Kingdom	29.3	23.5	21.9	21.2	13.3	13.6	7.8	7.3	4.0	3.7	17.4	15.6
Other Northern Europe	3.7	3.9	1.9	1.8	1.1	1.1	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	1.9	1.9
Western Europe	20.6	22.2	9.0	9.2	4.6	4.9	4.4	4.2	2.5	2.4	9.7	10.2
Eastern Europe	17.1	18.3	5.6	5.1	3.4	3.3	8.5	9.8	10.4	10.8	9.4	9.9
Southern Europe	18.6	22.8	29.8	32.4	12.7	13.5	4.8	5.3	4.8	5.1	15.4	17.4
Total other Europe	59.9	67.2	46.4	48.6	21.8	22.8	18.5	20.0	18.6	18.9	36.4	39.4
Western Asia/Middle East	0.4	0.4	1.4	1.9	2.5	3.3	4.9	6.9	8.8	11.3	2.9	3.9
Eastern Asia	1.5	2.0	5.0	4.5	10.7	10.2	14.0	13.2	20.4	19.7	8.8	8.6
South East Asia	0.2	0.2	2.2	1.3	11.0	11.4	15.8	15.0	14.4	12.1	7.4	6.9
Southern Asia	0.4	0.4	3.0	4.2	8.0	8.4	8.3	9.1	8.6	9.0	5.0	5.6
Total Asia/Middle East	2.6	3.2	11.7	12.0	32.3	33.4	43.1	44.2	52.1	52.1	24.2	24.9
Africa	0.4	0.4	3.0	3.6	5.4	6.1	4.4	5.8	6.1	7.6	3.4	4.2
Oceania and other	0.4	0.4	1.3	1.2	1.7	1.6	1.3	1.1	0.9	0.8	1.1	1.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	632.2	606.9	420.2	407.8	529.4	508.0	332.4	312.6	298.7	294.8	2,212.9	2,130.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 93-316.

Table 9.4
Immigrants and the Canadian-born, by age, 1991

	Immigrants		Canadian-born	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
Under 15	5.1	5.6	23.4	25.1
15-24	8.9	9.7	14.7	15.4
25-44	36.7	36.6	33.2	33.6
45-64	29.9	32.4	17.8	17.6
65 and over	19.4	15.8	10.9	8.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	2,212.9	2,130.0	11,330.9	11,096.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.5
Family status of immigrants and the Canadian-born, by age, 1991

	Immigrants		Canadian-born	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
%				
Persons aged 15-64				
Husband-wife/common-law spouse	69.2	69.8	60.9	58.4
Lone parent	8.0	1.8	7.6	1.5
Never-married child living at home	10.1	13.1	16.9	22.4
Not living with their family	12.7	15.3	14.6	17.7
Total aged 15-64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons aged 65 and over				
Husband-wife/common-law spouse	42.8	77.4	43.4	75.4
Lone parent	5.7	1.8	5.5	1.8
Never-married child living at home	--	0.1	0.1	0.1
Not living with their family	51.4	20.6	51.0	22.7
Total aged 65 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.6
Immigrants' knowledge of official languages, by period of immigration, 1991

	English only	French only	English and French	Neither English nor French	Total
	%				
Period of immigration					
Before 1961					
Women	86.0	2.0	8.4	3.5	100.0
Men	85.0	1.9	11.2	1.9	100.0
1961-1970					
Women	77.9	2.9	12.7	6.5	100.0
Men	78.4	2.7	15.3	3.5	100.0
1971-1980					
Women	75.8	4.1	12.6	7.5	100.0
Men	78.8	3.4	13.9	3.9	100.0
1981-1991					
Women	71.5	5.9	9.5	13.1	100.0
Men	74.3	5.4	11.1	9.2	100.0
Total					
Women	77.9	3.8	10.5	7.8	100.0
Men	79.2	3.4	12.6	4.8	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.7
Educational attainment of immigrants and the Canadian-born, by age, 1991

	Persons aged							
	15-64				65 and over			
	Immigrants		Canadian-born		Immigrants		Canadian-born	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
Educational attainment								
Less than Grade 9	15.7	12.3	8.3	9.4	42.8	36.9	38.1	41.0
Grades 9-13	33.7	28.4	43.0	40.5	36.1	27.3	38.8	31.6
Some postsecondary	36.8	40.4	38.3	37.8	18.0	26.9	20.1	20.2
University degree	13.9	19.0	10.5	12.2	3.2	9.0	3.0	7.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	1,671.2	1,674.2	7,447.0	7,396.8	429.9	336.8	1,236.5	919.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.8
Educational attainment of immigrants, by period immigration, 1991

	Period of immigration									
	Before 1961		1961-1970		1971-1980		1981-1991		Total	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%									
Educational attainment										
Less than Grade 9	30.2	26.1	21.1	16.1	15.4	10.1	16.2	11.1	21.2	16.4
Grades 9-13	36.9	25.2	30.3	23.4	33.1	30.2	34.9	33.7	34.2	28.2
Some postsecondary	26.8	37.1	35.0	40.6	37.4	40.4	34.3	34.9	32.9	38.1
University degree	6.1	11.5	13.6	20.0	14.1	19.3	14.6	20.2	11.7	17.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	632.2	606.9	420.2	407.8	521.1	498.9	527.7	497.4	2,101.1	2,011.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.9
Percentage of immigrants and the Canadian-born employed, by age, 1991

	Immigrants		Canadian-born	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-24	52.5	53.9	56.1	58.3
25-44	70.2	84.4	71.8	85.7
45-54	68.4	86.5	65.7	84.5
55-64	38.3	66.6	35.1	58.6
Total aged 15-64	62.0	77.8	62.9	76.0
65 and over	5.4	13.6	5.2	13.7
Total aged 15 and over	50.4	67.1	54.7	69.1

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.10
Occupational distribution of employed immigrants and the Canadian-born, 1991

	Immigrants		Canadian-born	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Managerial	10.2	15.0	10.3	13.6
Professional	20.3	17.1	22.4	13.6
Clerical	27.8	7.0	32.6	7.1
Sales	8.8	7.9	9.6	9.3
Service	16.8	11.4	15.6	9.8
Primary	1.9	3.1	2.4	7.5
Processing	2.5	8.3	1.8	6.8
Product fabricating	7.5	10.4	2.1	8.4
Construction trades	0.3	9.6	0.4	10.7
Other	3.9	10.1	2.8	13.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed (000s)	1,156.0	1,470.0	5,175.4	6,310.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.11
Unemployment rates¹ of immigrants and the Canadian-born, by age, 1991

	Immigrants		Canadian-born	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-24	16.0	17.6	14.3	16.3
25-44	10.9	9.9	9.4	9.4
45-54	8.3	7.3	7.6	7.1
55-64	10.1	8.9	7.9	8.6
Total aged 15-64	10.8	9.8	10.1	10.3
65 and over	7.8	7.1	6.2	4.6
Total aged 15 and over	10.7	9.7	10.0	10.2

¹Represents the number of unemployed as a percentage of the total labour force.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.12
Percentage of immigrants and the Canadian-born not in the labour force, by age, 1991

	Immigrants		Canadian-born	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-24	37.4	34.5	34.5	30.4
25-44	21.2	6.2	20.7	5.4
45-54	25.3	6.7	29.0	9.0
55-64	57.4	27.0	61.9	35.9
Total aged 15-64	30.5	13.7	30.0	15.2
65 and over	94.1	85.4	94.4	85.7
Total aged 15 and over	43.5	25.7	39.2	23.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.13
Average annual personal income of immigrants and the Canadian-born, by age, 1990

	Immigrants			Canadian-born		
	Women	Men	Women's income as a % of men's	Women	Men	Women's income as a % of men's
	\$			\$		
Persons aged						
15-24	6,748	8,003	84.3	6,753	8,613	78.4
25-44	17,854	31,983	55.8	18,631	33,490	55.6
45-54	19,728	41,487	47.6	18,449	40,522	45.5
55-64	14,060	34,931	40.3	13,849	33,875	40.9
Total aged 15-64	16,265	31,726	51.3	15,367	28,804	53.4
65 and over	14,234	23,243	61.2	15,426	24,783	62.2
Total aged 15 and over	15,850	30,305	52.3	15,376	28,359	54.2

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.14
Percentage of immigrants and the Canadian-born with low income,¹ by age, 1990

	Immigrants		Canadian-born	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
Under 18	36.8	37.1	16.8	16.5
18-24	28.8	26.2	21.7	16.1
25-44	19.6	18.0	13.5	10.3
45-54	11.6	10.6	11.9	9.5
55-64	16.7	12.5	17.4	14.4
65 and over	25.6	17.1	21.9	12.4
Total	20.9	17.8	16.3	13.2

¹Includes those with incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs; see Chapter 7 for definitions.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.15
Composition of personal income of immigrants and the Canadian born,¹ by age, 1990

	Immigrants				Canadian-born			
	Women aged		Men aged		Women aged		Men aged	
	Under 65	65 and over	Under 65	65 and over	Under 65	65 and over	Under 65	65 and over
	%							
Wages and salaries	74.8	5.0	79.7	11.0	75.3	3.8	80.0	8.3
Net income from self-employment	3.7	0.6	6.7	2.0	3.1	0.4	6.0	2.2
Investment income	7.2	15.4	3.0	12.3	5.3	15.9	1.9	10.9
Transfer payments	12.1	73.6	8.4	60.7	13.8	73.4	9.4	61.1
Other income	2.2	5.4	2.3	13.9	2.6	6.5	2.7	17.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Average income (\$)	19,353	14,618	33,869	23,655	17,836	15,485	30,495	24,829

¹Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 9.16
Average annual employment earnings of immigrants and the Canadian-born employed full-year, full-time, by age, 1990

	Immigrants			Canadian-born		
	Women	Men	Women's earnings as a % of men's	Women	Men	Women's earnings as a % of men's
\$			\$			
Persons aged						
15-24	18,001	20,406	88.2	17,572	21,016	83.6
25-44	26,816	38,984	68.8	27,474	38,555	71.3
45-54	28,144	46,428	60.6	28,225	45,882	61.5
55-64	25,536	42,310	60.4	25,466	42,026	60.6
Total aged 15-64	26,601	40,997	64.9	26,478	39,020	67.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

WOMEN IN A VISIBLE MINORITY

by Jennifer Chard

A growing minority

Women in a visible minority¹ are a unique population in Canada. These women, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in colour, are doubly disadvantaged. Visible minority women may encounter barriers because of their race or colour in addition to the sex-based discrimination often faced by women.

The number of visible minority women in Canada has grown considerably since the mid-1980s. In 1991, an estimated 1.3 million women belonged to a visible minority group, up from 800,000 in 1986. (Table 10.1)

Visible minority women also account for an increasing proportion of all women in Canada. In 1991, 9% of all women were in a visible minority, compared with 6% in 1986. This trend may be explained, at least in part, by current trends in immigration. As described in Chapter 9, the majority of recent immigrants to Canada have come from countries outside Europe.

As with the overall population, women make up the majority of the total visible minority population. In 1991, 50.3% of all persons in a visible minority were female. (Chart 10.1)

Varied ethnic origins

Visible minority women come from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds. In 1991, 25% of all visible minority women were Chinese, 21% were Black, 19% were South Asian, 10% were West Asian or Arab, 8% were Filipino, 5% were Latin American, 5% were South East Asian, 3% were Japanese, 2% were Korean, and less than 1% were Other Pacific Islanders. (Table 10.1)

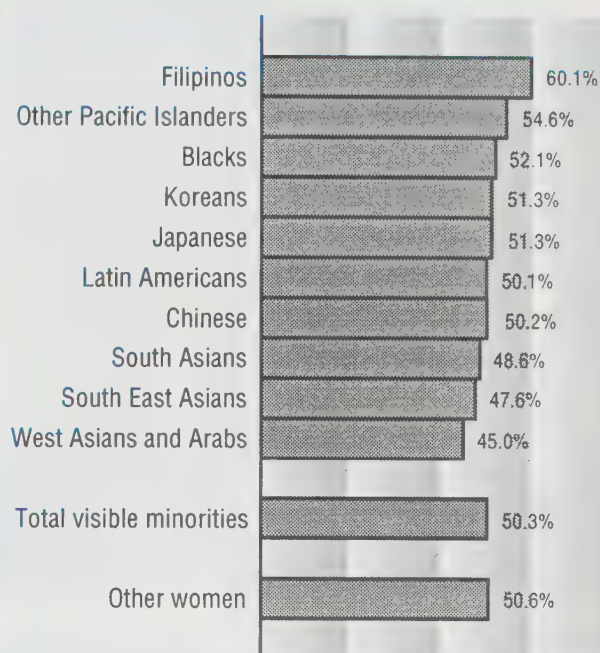
Most of the visible minority subgroups have grown rapidly in recent years. Between 1986 and 1991, the number of Latin American women more than doubled, while the number of West Asian or Arab and Filipino women almost doubled. Among other subgroups, the percentage increase ranged from 66% for South Asian women to 23% for Japanese women. In contrast, the number of other women in Canada grew by only 4% in the same period. (Chart 10.2)

Most are immigrants

Most women who are in a visible minority in Canada are immigrants. In 1991, 79% of visible minority women aged 15 and over were born outside the country. (Chart 10.3)

Chart 10.1

Women as a percentage of persons in a visible minority, by subgroup, 1991



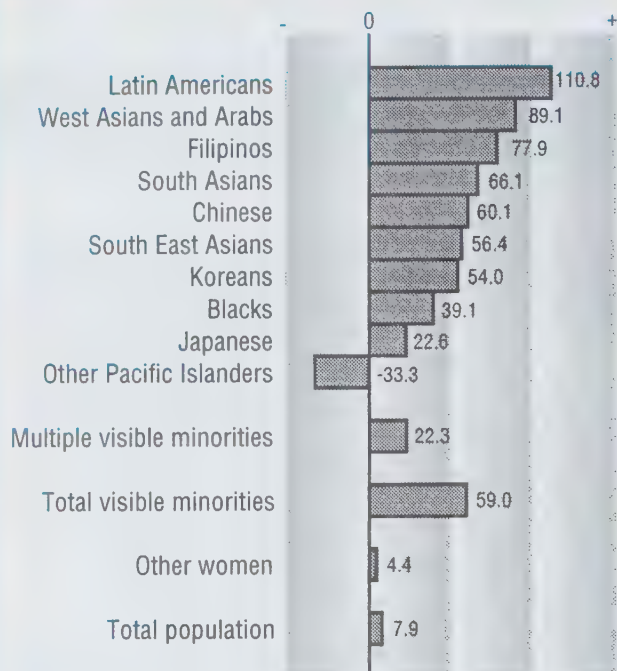
Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Accordingly, the large majority of women in all but one of the visible minority subgroups are immigrants. For example, in 1991, 93% of South East Asian women, 87% of Koreans, and 86% of South Asians were immigrants. The one visible minority subgroup in which most women were not immigrants was the Japanese group; only 26% of Japanese women in Canada in 1991 were immigrants.

A substantial share of visible minority women are recent immigrants to Canada. Indeed, 28% of immigrant visible minority women living in Canada in 1991 had immigrated to Canada between 1987 and 1991, while 16% had arrived between 1982 and 1986. Another 18% had arrived between 1977 and 1981 and 21% had immigrated between 1972 and 1976. Only 17% of female visible minority immigrants had come to Canada in 1971 or earlier. (Chart 10.4)

Chart 10.2

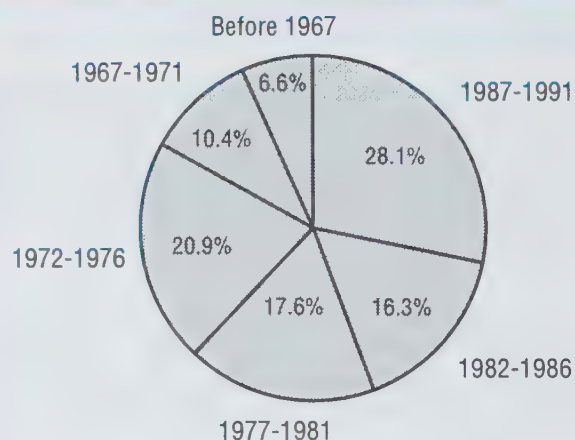
Percentage change in the number of women in a visible minority, by subgroup, 1986-1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chart 10.4

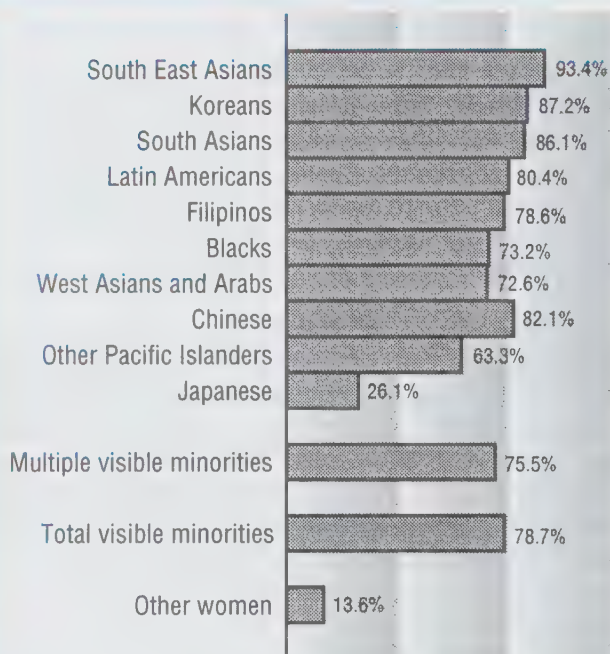
Period of immigration of women aged 15 and over in a visible minority who are immigrants, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chart 10.3

Percentage of women aged 15 and over in a visible minority who are immigrants, by subgroup, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Highly concentrated population

Visible minority women tend to live in Canada's largest provinces. Compared with 83% of other women, 94% of all visible minority women lived in Ontario, British Columbia, Quebec, or Alberta in 1991. More specifically, 52% of all visible minority women lived in Ontario, 19% resided in British Columbia, 15% lived in Quebec, and 9% made their home in Alberta. In contrast, less than 6% of visible minority women lived in the rest of the country combined. (Table 10.2)

There are considerable differences in the share of provincial populations accounted for by visible minority women. In 1991, visible minority women represented 14% of all women in British Columbia and 13% of women in Ontario. In contrast, they made up only 1% of women in New Brunswick, Newfoundland, and Prince Edward Island.

Most in large urban areas

Visible minority women are highly concentrated in large urban areas. In 1991, 92% of visible minority women resided in census metropolitan areas (CMAs), compared with just 59% of other women. That year, women in a visible minority made up 14% of all women living in CMAs, whereas they represented only 2% of women living outside CMAs. (Table 10.3)

The majority of visible minority women live in Canada's three largest CMAs: Toronto, Vancouver, and Montréal. In fact, in 1991, 40% of visible minority women lived in Toronto, 15% lived in Vancouver, and 14% made their home in Montréal.

It is interesting to note that visible minority women made up approximately one in four women living in Toronto (26%) and Vancouver (24%) in 1991. In addition, at least one in ten women living in each of Montréal (11%), Calgary (14%), Edmonton (13%), Winnipeg (10%), and Ottawa-Hull (10%) were in a visible minority group.

Visible minority women younger

Visible minority women tend to be younger than other women. In 1991, 54% of visible minority women were aged 15-44, compared with 47% of other women. At the same time, 25% of females in a visible minority were under age 15, versus 20% of other women. (Table 10.4)

In contrast, visible minority women are less likely than other women to be seniors. In 1991, only 6% of visible minority women were aged 65 or over, less than half the figure for all other women (13%). Visible minority women were also less likely than other women to be aged 45-64: 16% versus 20%.

Family status

As with other segments of the population, the large majority of women in a visible minority live with their families.² In 1991, among those aged 15-64, for example, 56% of visible minority women were partners in a two-spouse family,³ 9% were lone parents, and 20% were daughters living at home. That year, just 14% of these women were not living in a family. (Table 10.5)

Visible minority women aged 15-64, though, are less likely than other women in this age range to be partners in two-spouse families. In 1991, 56% of visible minority women aged 15-64 were wives or common-law spouses, compared with 63% of their non-visible minority female counterparts.

On the other hand, visible minority women aged 15-64 were more likely to be never-married daughters living at home than were other women. In 1991, 20% of women in a visible minority in this age range were never-married daughters living at home, versus 15% of other women.

At the same time, there was little difference in the likelihood of women in a visible minority and other women aged 15-64 either being lone mothers or not living with their family.

Compared with visible minority men, visible minority women aged 15-64 were more likely to be lone parents, 9% versus 2%, while they were less likely not to live with their family: 14% versus 18%.

Many senior visible minority women not living with their family

A substantial proportion of senior visible minority women do not live with their family. In 1991, 55% of visible minority women aged 65 and over were not living with their family, compared with 51% of other senior women and just 19% of senior visible minority men.

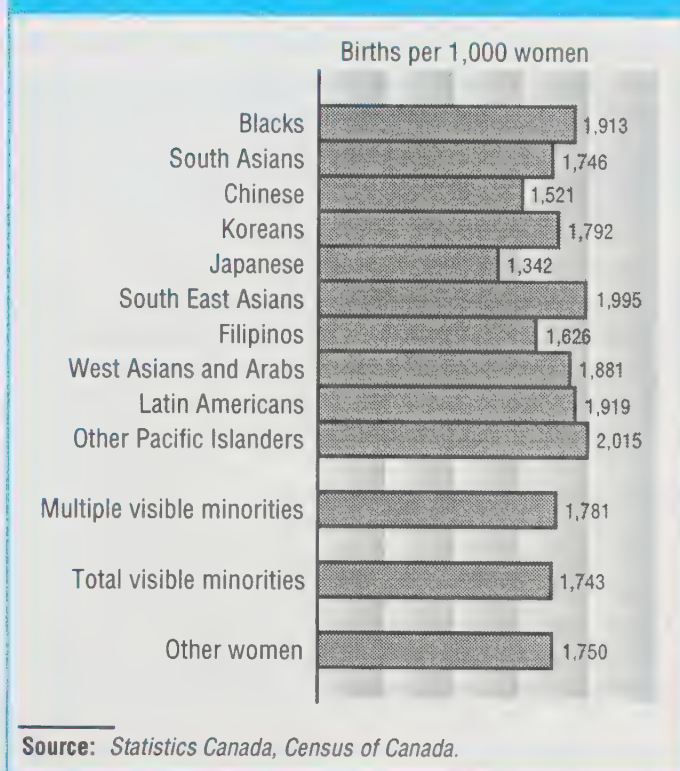
In contrast, relatively few senior visible minority women are partners in two-spouse families. In 1991, 34% of visible minority women aged 65 and over were wives or common-law spouses, compared with 44% of other senior women and 77% of visible minority men in this age range.

Birth rates

Birth rates among visible minority women tend to be similar to those among other women. In 1991, there were 1,743 children ever born for every 1,000 visible minority women aged 15-44 who had ever been married, just slightly lower than the figure for other women (1,750). (Chart 10.5)

Chart 10.5

Number of children born for every 1,000 women in a visible minority aged 15-44 who have ever been married, by subgroup, 1991



Substantial differences exist, however, in birth rates among women in different visible minority subgroups. In 1991, the number of births per 1,000 women aged 15-44 who had ever been married ranged from about 2,000 for the Other Pacific Islander and South East Asian groups to just under 1,350 for the Japanese group.

Most speak English or French

Although many visible minority women have immigrated to Canada from non-English and non-French speaking countries, the vast majority of these women speak at least one of Canada's official languages. In 1991, 89% of women in a visible minority aged 15 and over reported that they could speak at least one official language. More specifically, 75% of visible minority women could speak English only, 4% could speak French only, and 11% were bilingual. At the same time, 11% said they could not conduct a conversation in either official language. In comparison, 65% of other women could speak English only, 16% could speak French only, 18% were bilingual, and less than 1% could not conduct a conversation in either official language. (Table 10.6)

Highest level of schooling

Visible minority women are more likely than other women in Canada to have a university degree. In 1991, 15% of visible minority women aged 15 and over were university graduates, versus 9% of other women. (Table 10.7)

Women in a visible minority were also more likely than other women to have some postsecondary training, but less likely to have a postsecondary certificate or diploma below the university level. About the same percentages of visible minority women and other women had no more than a Grade 8 education.

Compared with their male counterparts, visible minority women are less likely to have a university degree. In 1991, 15% of women in a visible minority had a university degree, compared with 21% of visible minority men. Nevertheless, these women were more likely than non-visible minority men to be university graduates: 15% versus 12%.

Field of study

Visible minority women tend to obtain their education in science-related fields more frequently than other women. In 1991, 20% of visible minority women with university degrees had graduated from a science program, compared with 11% of other female graduates. (Table 10.8)

Female visible minority university graduates were also twice as likely as other female graduates to have a commerce or business administration degree, 19% versus 9%, and they were slightly more likely to have a degree in a health profession: 15% versus 11%. Women

in a visible minority were, however, much less likely than other female graduates to have a degree in the field of education, recreation, or counselling services: 13% versus 29%.

Compared with visible minority men, university-educated visible minority women are considerably less likely to have a degree in engineering and applied sciences or in mathematics and physical sciences. In contrast, they are more likely to have degrees in either health sciences or agricultural and biological sciences.

Employment

Visible minority women are slightly less likely than other Canadian women to be employed. In 1991, 60% of all visible minority women aged 15-64 were employed,⁴ compared with 63% of other women in the same age range. (Table 10.9)

Among visible minority women, those aged 25-44 are more likely to be employed than those in other age groups. In 1991, 68% of visible minority women aged 25-44 were employed, compared with 57% of those aged 45-64 and 45% of those aged 15-24. Not surprisingly, senior women were the least likely to have jobs: only 7% of visible minority women aged 65 and over were employed in 1991.

Visible minority women aged 25-44 were, nevertheless, less likely than other Canadian women of the same age to be employed: 68% versus 72% in 1991. There was an even wider gap, 45% versus 57%, between the percentages of visible minority women and other women aged 15-24 who held jobs. In contrast, visible minority women aged 45-64 were more likely than their non-visible minority counterparts to be employed: 57% versus 52%.

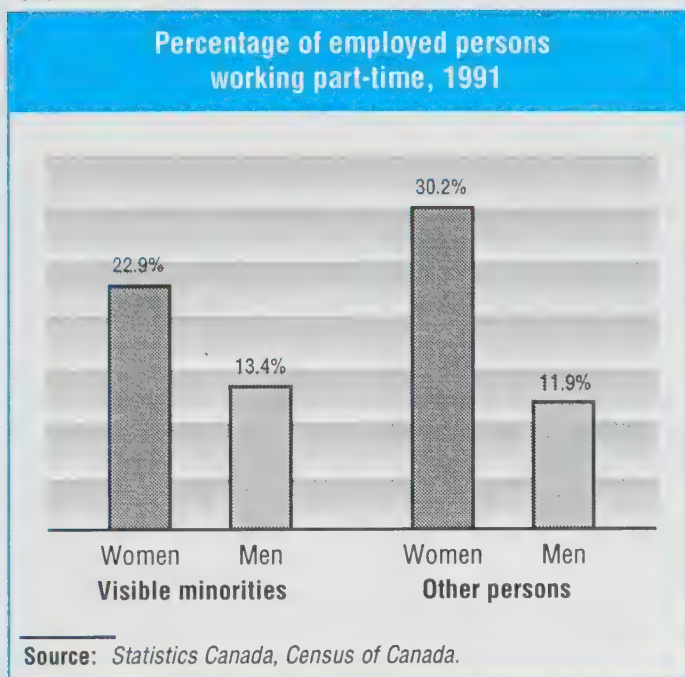
As with the overall population, visible minority women are less likely to be employed than their male counterparts. In 1991, 60% of visible minority women aged 15-64 were employed, compared with 71% of their male counterparts.

In fact, for most age groups, visible minority women are less likely to be employed than visible minority men. Indeed, there was a gap of almost 20 percentage points between the proportions of visible minority women and men aged 45-64 with jobs, while the difference was 12 percentage points among 25-44-year-olds. In contrast, there was little difference in the employment levels of visible minority women and men aged 15-24.

Part-time work

Employed visible minority women are less likely than other women to hold part-time jobs. In 1991,⁵ 23% of visible minority women with jobs were employed on a part-time basis, compared with 30% of other women. (Chart 10.6)

Chart 10.6



Nonetheless, women in a visible minority, like women in general, are considerably more likely to work part-time than their male counterparts. In 1991, 23% of visible minority women were employed part-time, compared with 13% of visible minority men.

Self-employment

A very small proportion of visible minority women with jobs are self-employed. In fact, just 3% of visible minority women with jobs in 1991⁵ were self-employed. This was slightly lower than the figure for other Canadian women (4%), and only about half that for visible minority men (6%). (Chart 10.7)

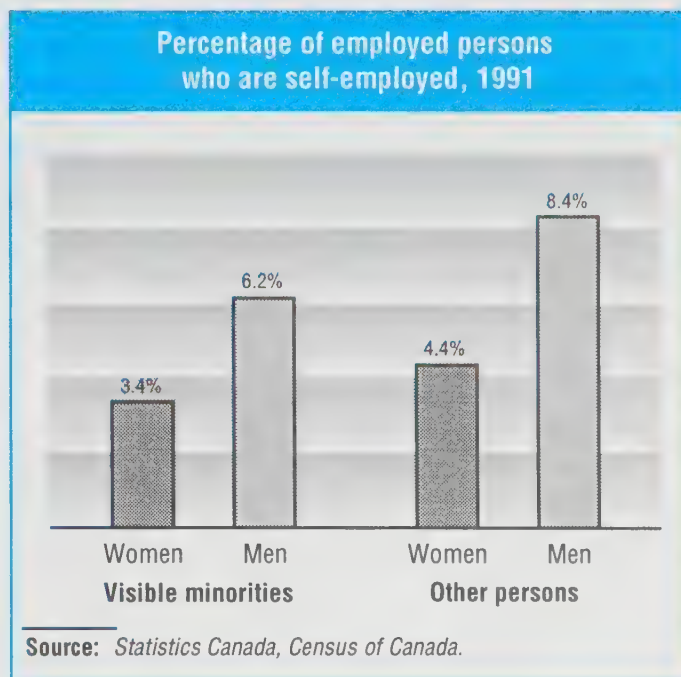
Occupation

Employed visible minority women, like other employed women, are concentrated in occupations in which women have traditionally worked. Indeed, almost half (48%) of all visible minority women employed in 1991⁵ were clerical, service, or sales workers. This was about the same percentage as for other women (51%). The proportion of visible minority women working in these occupations was, however, almost twice the figure for visible minority men: 48% versus 28%. (Table 10.10)

Visible minority women are less likely than other women to hold professional and managerial positions. In 1991, 13% of visible minority women worked in professional occupations, versus 16% of other women. Similarly, 6% of visible minority women were employed as managers, while 8% of other women held management positions.

In contrast, visible minority women are more likely than other women to be employed in manual jobs. In 1991,

Chart 10.7



16% of visible minority women were semi-skilled or other manual workers, compared with just 10% of other women.

Visible minority women are less likely to be employed as managers and professionals than their male counterparts. However, they are also less frequently employed as manual workers.

Occupation and education

University-educated visible minority women tend to work in different occupations than other female graduates. In 1991, 18% of employed visible minority women who held university degrees worked in clerical occupations, compared with just 10% of other university-educated women. Visible minority women with university degrees were also more likely than their non-visible minority counterparts to be employed in service, sales, or manual jobs: 15% versus 8%. (Table 10.11)

Despite their university training, visible minority women are considerably less likely than other women with degrees to be employed in either professional or management positions. In 1991, 30% of visible minority women with a university degree worked in professional occupations, compared with 48% of their non-visible minority counterparts. Similarly, 8% of visible minority women with degrees held management positions, versus 12% of other female university graduates.

Unemployment

Women who are in a visible minority experience higher levels of unemployment than other women. In 1991, 13.4% of female visible minority labour force participants were unemployed, compared with 9.8% of other women who were active in the labour force. (Table 10.12)

Young visible minority women are more likely to be unemployed than other women in a visible minority. In 1991, 17.7% of female visible minority labour force participants aged 15-24 were unemployed, compared with 12.7% of those aged 25-44, 11.3% of those aged 45-64, and 14.2% of those aged 65 and over. For all age groups, the unemployment rates of visible minority women were substantially higher than those of other women. Furthermore, the unemployment rates of visible minority women were higher than those of visible minority men in all groups aged 25 and over.

Average incomes

Visible minority women have relatively low incomes. In 1990, visible minority women aged 15 and over had an average annual income of \$13,800. This was \$1,800 less than the figure for other women (\$15,600) and almost \$9,000 less than that for visible minority men (\$22,600). (Table 10.13)

Visible minority women aged 45-54 have higher incomes than visible minority women in other age groups. In 1990, visible minority women aged 45-54 had an average income of \$19,600, while those aged 25-44 had an average income of \$16,600. In contrast, the figures were \$12,800 for those aged 55-64, \$10,500 for those aged 65 and over, and just \$5,600 for 15-24-year-olds.

Employment earnings

Women in a visible minority who are employed on a full-time, full-year basis earn less than their non-visible minority counterparts. In 1990, the average employment income for visible minority women was \$24,700, about \$1,400 less than other women who earned an average of \$26,000. In addition, visible minority women employed full-time, full-year earned only about 71% as much as male visible minority workers. (Table 10.14)

Furthermore, visible minority women employed full-time, full-year in 1990 earned considerably less than visible minority men across all age groups. They also earned less than other women in all groups between the ages of 25 and 64. In contrast, there was little difference in the average earnings of visible minority and other women aged 15-24, while senior visible minority women who worked full-time, full-year earned more than other women aged 65 and over.

Visible minority women receive a larger share of their total income from employment earnings than do other women. In 1990, 74% of the income of visible minority women consisted of wages and salaries and self-employment income, versus 65% of the income of other women. (Table 10.15)

Employment earnings, though, make up a smaller share of the income of visible minority women than of visible minority men. In 1990, wages and salaries and net income from

self-employment comprised 74% of the income of women in a visible minority, compared with 81% of that of their male counterparts.

Income from transfer payments

Visible minority women obtain a substantially smaller proportion of their total income from government transfers than other women. In 1990, 18% of the income of visible minority women came from transfer payments, compared with 24% of the income of women who were not in a visible minority. (Table 10.15)

At the same time, government transfer payments account for a greater share of the income of visible minority women than the income of their male counterparts. In 1990, 18% of the income of visible minority women came from transfer payments, compared with 13% of that of visible minority men.

Incidence of low income

Visible minority women are more likely than other women in Canada to have low incomes. In 1990, 28% of visible minority women had incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs,⁶ compared with 16% of other women. There was little difference, though, in the incidence of low income between women (28%) and men (26%) in a visible minority. (Table 10.16)

There is considerable variation in the incidence of low income among visible minority women in different age groups. For example, in 1990, around 30% of visible minority females in each of the under 18, 18-24, 25-44, and 65 and over age groups lived in a low-income situation. In contrast, 18% of visible minority women aged 45-54 and 24% of those aged 55-64 lived with low incomes.

¹ The visible minority subgroups derived from the 1986 and 1991 Censuses include Blacks, South Asians (referred to as Indo-Pakistanis in 1986), Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, South East Asians, Filipinos, West Asians and Arabs, Latin Americans, and Other Pacific Islanders. For more information on the definitions of visible minorities see the section on the **Employment Equity Act** (1986) in Chapter 6.

² In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

³ Includes those living in a common-law relationship.

⁴ Data on employment refer to the percentage employed in the week prior to the 1991 Census.

⁵ These data refer to the reference period June 1990 to June 1991.

⁶ For a definition of the Low Income Cut-offs see Chapter 7.

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Table 10.1
Women in a visible minority, 1986 and 1991

	1986			1991		
	000s	As a % of all women in a visible minority	As a % of all women in Canada	000s	As a % of all women in a visible minority	As a % of all women in Canada
Visible minority group						
Blacks	188.9	23.7	1.4	262.7	20.7	1.9
South Asians	148.1	18.6	1.2	245.9	19.4	1.8
Chinese	196.3	24.6	1.6	314.2	24.8	2.3
Koreans	15.2	1.9	0.1	23.4	1.8	0.2
Japanese	26.7	3.3	0.2	32.7	2.6	0.2
South East Asians	40.3	5.1	0.3	63.1	5.0	0.4
Filipinos	57.1	7.2	0.4	101.6	8.0	0.7
Other Pacific Islanders	4.4	0.6	--	3.0	0.2	--
West Asians and Arabs	69.0	8.6	0.5	130.5	10.3	1.0
Latin Americans	32.0	4.0	0.3	67.4	5.3	0.4
Multiple visible minorities	20.2	2.5	0.2	24.7	1.9	0.2
Total visible minorities	798.2	100.0	6.3	1,269.2	100.0	9.3
Other women	11,855.3	--	93.7	12,387.1	--	90.7
Total population	12,653.6	--	100.0	13,656.4	--	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.2
Women in a visible minority and other women, by province, 1991

	Women in a visible minority			Other women	
	000s	As a % of all women in province	As a % of all women in a visible minority in Canada	000s	As a % of all other women in Canada
Newfoundland	1.9	0.7	0.2	280.0	2.3
Prince Edward Island	0.7	1.1	0.1	64.1	0.5
Nova Scotia	15.0	3.3	1.2	437.9	3.5
New Brunswick	4.4	1.2	0.3	358.0	2.9
Quebec	187.5	5.4	14.8	3,278.4	26.4
Ontario	655.4	12.9	51.6	4,408.3	35.6
Manitoba	36.8	6.7	2.9	508.9	4.1
Saskatchewan	12.4	2.5	1.0	478.0	3.9
Alberta	117.7	9.4	9.3	1,135.3	9.2
British Columbia	236.2	14.4	18.6	1,398.6	11.3
Yukon	0.4	2.9	--	12.9	0.1
Northwest Territories	0.7	2.6	0.1	26.8	0.2
Total	1,269.2	9.3	100.0	12,387.1	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.3
Women in a visible minority and other women in census metropolitan areas (CMAs), 1991

	Women in a visible minority			Other women	
	000s	As a % of all women in CMA	As a % of all women in a visible minority in Canada	000s	As a % of all other women in Canada
Census metropolitan areas					
Toronto	507.3	25.8	40.0	1,459.0	11.8
Vancouver	194.2	24.2	15.3	608.4	4.9
Montréal	172.2	10.8	13.6	1,418.0	11.4
Edmonton	52.4	12.6	4.1	364.4	2.9
Calgary	51.4	13.7	4.1	323.0	2.6
Ottawa-Hull	46.0	9.9	3.6	418.2	3.4
Winnipeg	34.3	10.4	2.7	296.5	2.4
Hamilton	20.7	6.9	1.6	281.9	2.3
Kitchener	14.6	8.2	1.1	163.9	1.3
London	12.7	6.5	1.0	181.5	1.4
Windsor	11.5	8.7	0.9	121.1	1.0
Victoria	10.4	7.1	0.8	136.7	1.1
Halifax	10.1	6.2	0.8	152.8	1.2
Oshawa	6.9	5.8	0.5	112.6	0.9
St. Catharines-Niagara	5.9	3.2	0.4	178.1	1.4
Regina	4.7	4.8	0.4	92.1	0.7
Saskatoon	4.7	4.4	0.4	102.1	0.8
Québec	3.9	1.2	0.3	325.5	2.6
Sudbury	1.6	2.0	0.1	77.6	0.6
Saint John	1.4	2.3	0.1	62.4	0.5
Sherbrooke	1.4	2.0	0.1	69.3	0.6
Thunder Bay	1.3	2.1	0.1	60.8	0.4
St. John's	1.1	1.2	0.1	85.9	0.7
Trois-Rivières	0.4	0.7	--	69.3	0.6
Chicoutimi-Jonquière	0.4	0.4	--	80.1	0.6
Total in CMAs	1,171.6	13.9	92.3	7,240.9	58.5
Total in non-CMA areas	97.6	1.9	7.7	5,148.6	41.6
Total	1,269.2	9.3	100.0	12,387.1	100.0

Source: Statistics Canada, *Census of Canada*.

Table 10.4
Persons in a visible minority and other persons, by age, 1991

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
Under 15	24.7	26.3	19.9	21.4
15-24	16.1	16.9	13.6	14.4
25-44	37.4	36.5	33.6	34.0
45-64	15.6	15.7	20.1	20.3
65 and over	6.1	4.6	12.9	10.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	1,269.2	1,256.2	12,387.1	12,081.4

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.5
Family status¹ of persons in a visible minority and other persons, by age, 1991

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged 15-64				
Husband/wife or common-law spouse	56.4	55.6	63.1	61.0
Lone parent	8.8	1.6	7.5	1.6
Never-married daughter or son	20.4	24.9	15.2	20.2
Not in family	14.4	17.8	14.2	17.2
Total aged 15-64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons aged 65 and over				
Husband/wife or common-law spouse	33.7	77.3	43.7	75.9
Lone parent	11.2	3.4	5.3	1.8
Not in family	54.9	19.1	50.9	22.3
Total aged 65 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total persons aged 15 and over				
Husband/wife or common-law spouse	54.4	57.0	60.0	62.9
Lone parent	9.1	1.8	7.2	1.6
Never-married daughter or son	18.6	23.3	12.8	17.7
Not in family	17.9	17.9	20.1	17.8
Total aged 15 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.6**Knowledge of official languages of persons in a visible minority and other persons aged 15 and over, 1991**

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Knowledge of official language				
English only	74.7	78.2	65.1	66.3
French only	4.0	3.3	16.1	13.5
English and French	10.7	12.4	18.0	19.6
Neither English nor French	10.5	6.1	0.8	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	956.0	925.3	9,926.5	9,496.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.7**Educational attainment of persons in a visible minority and other persons aged 15 and over, 1991**

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Educational attainment				
Less than Grade 9	14.6	9.2	14.2	14.0
Grades 9-13	35.2	34.3	41.2	37.6
Some postsecondary	17.3	17.9	13.9	13.1
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	17.9	17.2	21.2	23.3
University degree	15.0	21.4	9.4	12.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	956.0	925.3	9,926.5	9,496.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.8
Field of study of persons in a visible minority and other persons with a university degree, 1991

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Field of study				
Education/recreation and counselling services	13.3	4.4	29.4	13.7
Fine and applied arts	2.7	1.0	3.8	1.8
Humanities and related fields	13.4	6.4	15.6	11.3
Social sciences and related fields	16.9	12.9	19.5	18.3
Commerce/management and business administration	18.6	19.4	9.3	17.7
Health professions, sciences and technologies	14.6	9.9	11.0	7.0
Agricultural and biological sciences	6.9	4.8	5.4	4.6
Engineering and applied sciences ¹	3.9	27.0	1.8	16.2
Mathematics and physical sciences	9.3	13.9	4.0	9.3
Total sciences	20.1	45.7	11.1	30.1
No specialization	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total with university degree (000s)	143.8	197.7	939.3	1,138.9

¹Includes engineering and applied science technologies, and trades.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.9
Percentage of persons in a visible minority and other persons employed, by age, 1991

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-24	45.3	45.6	56.7	59.0
25-44	67.6	79.6	71.8	85.9
45-64	56.6	76.1	52.2	74.1
Total aged 15-64	60.0	70.5	62.9	76.8
65 and over	6.5	16.3	5.2	13.5
Total aged 15 and over	55.6	67.1	53.6	68.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.10
Occupational distribution of persons in a visible minority and other persons, 1991

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Occupation				
Upper-level managers	0.5	1.4	0.7	1.9
Middle and other managers	5.2	8.2	7.3	9.8
Total managers	5.7	9.6	8.0	11.7
Professionals	12.9	13.6	15.6	10.5
Semi-professionals and technicians	4.8	4.4	5.4	4.3
Supervisors	2.4	2.8	2.4	2.1
Foremen/women	0.4	1.9	0.4	3.8
Clerical workers	26.0	9.4	29.2	6.1
Sales workers	6.9	7.0	8.2	7.3
Service workers	15.5	11.1	13.7	6.6
Skilled crafts and trades workers	1.2	6.5	1.4	12.1
Semi-skilled manual workers	2.0	9.6	2.1	13.4
Other manual workers	14.3	17.3	8.2	17.7
Occupations not stated	7.6	6.8	5.1	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed (000s)	663.8	752.0	6,450.6	7,642.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.11
Occupational distribution of persons in a visible minority and other persons with a university degree, 1991

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Occupation				
Upper-level managers	1.0	2.7	1.6	4.5
Middle and other managers	7.4	12.2	10.2	16.6
Professionals	30.4	38.3	48.2	45.1
Semi-professionals and technicians	6.5	5.2	6.2	5.0
Supervisors	1.9	2.4	1.1	1.6
Foremen/women	0.2	1.0	0.2	1.0
Clerical workers	18.4	6.9	9.9	3.7
Sales workers	4.9	6.1	3.4	5.1
Service workers	6.3	3.1	2.7	1.9
Skilled crafts and trades workers	0.3	2.0	0.4	1.7
Semi-skilled manual workers	0.9	3.2	0.7	1.5
Other manual workers	2.9	4.1	1.0	2.2
Occupations not stated	4.3	3.9	2.6	2.5
Not applicable	14.4	8.9	11.9	7.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed with university degree (000s)	143.8	197.7	939.3	1,138.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.12
Unemployment rates of persons in a visible minority and other persons, by age, 1991

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-24	17.7	19.2	14.2	16.2
25-44	12.7	12.1	9.4	9.3
45-64	11.3	9.8	7.7	7.5
Total aged 15-64	13.4	12.8	9.9	10.0
65 and over	14.2	13.7	6.1	4.8
Total aged 15 and over	13.4	12.8	9.8	9.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.13
Average income of persons in a visible minority and other persons, by age, 1990

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	\$			
Persons aged				
15-24	5,598	6,324	6,877	8,803
25-44	16,561	26,445	18,662	33,997
45-54	19,593	35,661	18,735	41,545
55-64	12,845	28,796	13,995	34,728
65 and over	10,453	16,430	15,341	24,767
Total aged 15 and over	13,799	22,608	15,606	29,377

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.14
Average earnings¹ of persons in a visible minority and other persons, by age, 1990

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	\$			
Persons aged				
15-24	17,039	18,437	17,268	20,674
25-44	25,036	33,786	27,147	38,572
45-54	26,787	40,840	27,819	45,867
55-64	23,570	37,040	24,580	41,519
Total aged 15-64	24,712	34,597	26,160	39,245
65 and over	16,664	26,755	14,632	29,630
Total aged 15 and over	24,650	34,495	26,037	39,081

¹Includes only those employed on a full-year, full-time basis.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.15**Composition of personal income¹ of persons in a visible minority and other persons, 1990**

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Wages and salaries	71.1	75.8	62.1	70.5
Self-employment income	2.6	4.8	2.7	5.7
Government transfer payments	18.1	13.3	24.4	16.1
Investment income	6.2	3.9	7.5	3.2
Other income	2.0	2.2	3.3	4.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total income (\$)	16,858	25,633	17,641	30,614

¹Includes only those with some income.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 10.16**Percentage of persons in a visible minority and other persons with low income, by age, 1990**

	Visible minorities		Other persons	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
Under 18	29.3	29.9	16.5	16.1
18-24	32.5	30.5	22.0	16.3
25-44	27.6	25.1	13.6	10.6
45-54	18.2	17.3	11.4	9.2
55-64	23.8	17.9	16.9	13.7
65 and over	29.7	27.6	22.6	13.1
Total	27.7	26.2	16.3	12.9

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

ABORIGINAL WOMEN IN CANADA

by Elizabeth Moore

Aboriginal women¹

Aboriginal women are another group of women which is doubly disadvantaged. These women may face disadvantages based not only on their gender, but also on their Aboriginal origins. In 1991, there were 522,000 Aboriginal women² living in Canada, representing 4% of all women. (Table 11.1)

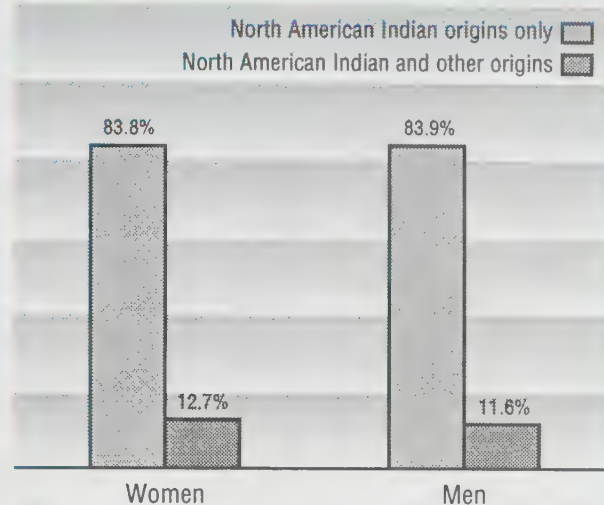
As in the rest of the population, women represent a slight majority of the Aboriginal population. In 1991, 51.4% of all Aboriginal people in Canada were female.

Almost half (47%) of Aboriginal women in Canada in 1991 had Aboriginal origins only, that is, they had either North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit origins only, or some combination of the three. That year, 36% of all Aboriginal women had North American Indian ancestry only, while 7% reported Métis origins only, 3% had Inuit ancestry only, and 1% had multiple Aboriginal origins. At the same time, 51% of Aboriginal women reported Aboriginal ancestry along with other ethnic origins, while 2% were registered Indian women without Aboriginal origins.

Most women with North American Indian origins only are registered under the *Indian Act*.³ In 1991, 84% of all women with North American Indian origins only were registered Indians. In contrast, just 13% of female North American Indians with both Aboriginal and other origins were registered. These figures, though, were about the same as those for men with North American Indian origins (Chart 11.1)

Chart 11.1

Percentage of North American Indians registered, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Just over half (54%) of registered Indian women with North American Indian origins only lived on reserves or Indian settlements in 1991.⁴ In contrast, registered Indian women with North American Indian and other origins, as well as non-registered Indian women, were much less likely to live in these communities. (Chart 11.2)

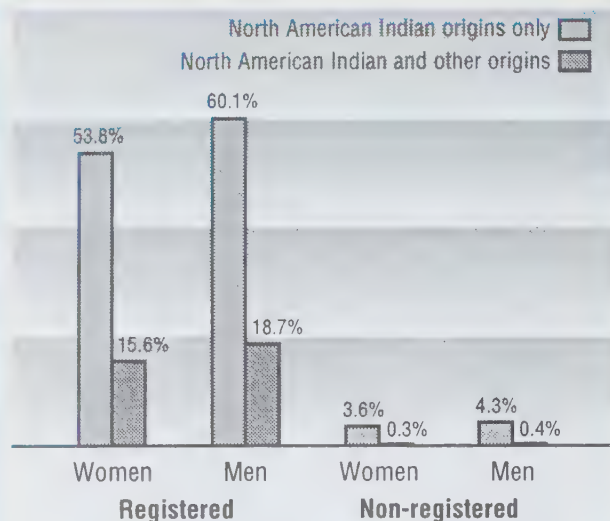
Registered Indians and the *Indian Act*

It should be noted that in the past, legislation regarding the registration of North American Indians treated women and men differently. Prior to 1985, under certain provisions of the *Indian Act*, Aboriginal women who married non-Aboriginal men automatically lost their status and, as a result, their band membership. As well, these women could no longer pass their status on to their children. The opposite was true for Aboriginal men marrying non-Aboriginal women. In fact, the *Indian Act* conferred status to non-Aboriginal women who married Aboriginal men.

Changes were made to the *Indian Act* in 1985 through Bill C-31, which allowed many disenfranchised women and their children to reclaim their status and, in some cases, band membership. Those eligible to have status and/or band membership restored under Bill C-31 included women who had lost status and band membership either because of marriage to a non-Aboriginal man or because of other discriminatory clauses. Also included were individuals who had lost or been denied status because of discriminatory clauses or enfranchisement, such as those requiring Aboriginal people to give up status and band membership in return for the right to vote or to join the armed forces.

Chart 11.2

Percentage of North American Indians living on reserves or Indian settlements, 1991



Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

However, North American Indian women in all these groups were less likely than their male counterparts to live on Indian reserves or settlements. For example, among registered Indians with North American Indian origins only, 54% of women, versus 60% of men, lived in these communities in 1991.

Aboriginal women in the provinces and territories

Aboriginal women make up a relatively large share of the female population in the Western provinces. In 1991, 11% of all women in Manitoba, 10% in Saskatchewan, 6% in Alberta, and 5% in British Columbia were Aboriginal women. In contrast, Aboriginal women represented only around 2% of women in each of the remaining provinces. (Table 11.2)

Aboriginal women also make up a large segment of the female population in both territories. In fact, 63% of all women living in the Northwest Territories in 1991 were Aboriginal women, as were 25% of those in the Yukon.

Nevertheless, as with the population in general, the largest share of Aboriginal women live in Ontario. In 1991, 25% of all Aboriginal women lived in Ontario, while 17% lived in British Columbia, 15% were in Alberta, 14% resided in Quebec, 11% were in Manitoba, and 10% lived in Saskatchewan. At the same time, 5% lived in the Atlantic provinces and 4% were in the territories.

Urban/rural distribution

Aboriginal women are more likely than other women to live in rural areas of Canada. In 1991, 33% of all Aboriginal

women, compared with 15% of other women, lived in rural regions. (Table 11.3)

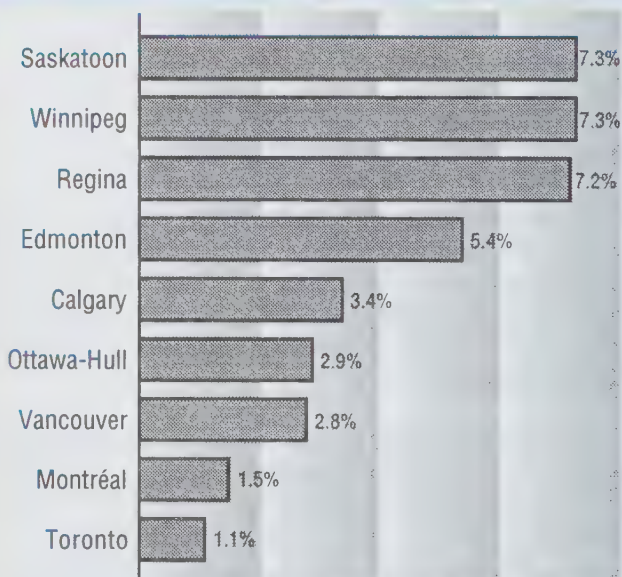
At the same time, Aboriginal women are less likely than other women to live in urban areas, especially large urban centres. In 1991, 67% of Aboriginal women lived in an urban area, compared with 85% of other women. As well, only 40% of Aboriginal women, versus 62% of other women, lived in a census metropolitan area, that is, an urban area with a population of 100,000 or more.

Aboriginal women, however, make up a relatively large segment of the population in several cities in Western Canada. In 1991, 7% of the total female population in Winnipeg, Regina and Saskatoon, and 5% of that in Edmonton were Aboriginal. In contrast, Aboriginal women as a percentage of the total female population in other large census metropolitan areas ranged from only 3% in Calgary, Ottawa and Vancouver to just 1% in Toronto. (Chart 11.3)

The tendency for Aboriginal women to live in urban or rural areas varies among the different groups of Aboriginal women. For example, in 1991, about half of women with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origins (52%) lived in a census metropolitan area, as did 43% of registered Indian women without Aboriginal origins and 41% of women with Métis origins only. At the same time, only 26% of women

Chart 11.3

Aboriginal women¹ as a percentage of the female population in selected census metropolitan areas, 1991



¹ Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

with North American Indian origins only, 22% of those with multiple Aboriginal origins, and 6% of those with Inuit origins only resided in census metropolitan areas. (Table 11.4)

On the other hand, women with Inuit or North American Indian origins only, as well as those with multiple Aboriginal origins, were especially likely to reside in rural areas. Indeed, in 1991, 79% of women with Inuit origins only, 54% of those with multiple Aboriginal origins, and 51% of those with North American Indian origins only lived in rural parts of the country.

It is not surprising that the female Inuit population is largely concentrated in rural areas, since most of these women live in northern parts of the country where there are few urban centres. As for women with North American Indian origins only, their tendency to live in rural areas may be a reflection of the fact that many of these women who are registered Indians live on Indian reserves or settlements, which are usually located in rural areas.

Language spoken at home

English is the home language of the majority of Aboriginal women. In 1991, 76% of Aboriginal women reported that English was the language they spoke most often at home, while French was reported by 11%. At the same time, 11% of Aboriginal women reported that they most often spoke a native language at home. These figures were about the same as those for Aboriginal men, although Aboriginal women were slightly less likely to most often speak an Aboriginal language at home. (Table 11.5)

The use of an Aboriginal language in the home, however, varies among the different groups of Aboriginal women. In 1991, 60% of women with Inuit origins only reported that they most often spoke a native language at home, as did 23% of those with North American Indian origins only and 19% of those with more than one Aboriginal origin. In comparison, just 5% of women with Métis origins only, 1% of those with both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origins, and 1% of registered Indian women without Aboriginal origins most often spoke an Aboriginal language in their home.

Aboriginal women tend to be younger

Aboriginal women tend to be younger, on average, than non-Aboriginal women. In 1991, 34% of the female Aboriginal population were under 15 years of age, compared with 20% of the non-Aboriginal female population. At the same time, 19% of Aboriginal women, versus 14% of other women, were aged 15-24. (Table 11.6)

On the other hand, only 3% of Aboriginal women were aged 65 and over in 1991, compared with 13% of other women. As well, 10% of Aboriginal women, versus 20% of other women, were aged 45-64.

Unlike their non-Aboriginal counterparts, there are few differences between the age distributions of Aboriginal

women and men. Most notably, the same proportion of Aboriginal women and men were aged 65 and over in 1991 (3%). In comparison, 13% of non-Aboriginal women were seniors, versus 10% of men.

Shorter life expectancy⁵

The life expectancy of registered Indian women is considerably shorter than that of the overall female population in Canada. For example, a registered Indian female born in 1991 had an estimated life expectancy of 74 years, compared with an average of almost 81 years for all Canadian females born that year. (Table 11.7)

The life expectancy of registered Indian women, however, has increased relatively rapidly over the last two decades. Between 1975 and 1991, their life expectancy rose 8.1 years, compared with an increase of 3.4 years for the overall female population in Canada.

As with the total female population, registered Indian women tend to live longer than their male counterparts. A registered Indian female born in 1991, for example, had a life expectancy of 74 years, compared with 67 years for a registered Indian male born that year.

Family status of non-elderly Aboriginal women

Most Aboriginal women aged 15-64 live with their family.⁶ In fact, in 1991, 85% of Aboriginal women in this age range were spouses in a married or common-law couple, female lone parents, or never-married daughters still living at home. (Table 11.8)

Overall, about the same proportion of Aboriginal and other women aged 15-64 lived with their family in 1991. However, Aboriginal women in this age range were almost twice as likely as other women to be lone parents: 15% versus 7%. On the other hand, Aboriginal women were less likely than other women to be partners in a two-spouse family: 53% versus 63%.

At the same time, Aboriginal women aged 15-64 are slightly more likely than other women not to live with their family. In 1991, 16% of Aboriginal women, compared with 14% of other women, were either living alone, with members of their extended family, or with unrelated persons.

There are also differences in the family status of Aboriginal women and men aged 15-64. Aboriginal women, for example, were somewhat more likely than their male counterparts to be partners in a two-spouse family in 1991, whereas they were considerably less likely to not live with their family or to be never-married children living at home.

As with women in general, Aboriginal women under age 65 are also far more likely than their male counterparts to be lone parents. In 1991, 15% of Aboriginal women aged 15-64 were lone parents, compared with only 2% of Aboriginal men in this age range.

Many senior Aboriginal women not living with their family

In contrast to younger Aboriginal women, the majority of senior Aboriginal women living in households do not live with their family. In 1991, 53% of Aboriginal women aged 65 and over either lived alone, with extended family members, or with unrelated persons. This was slightly higher than the figure for other senior women (51%). It was also considerably higher than the figure for senior Aboriginal men, just 34% of whom did not live with their family. (Table 11.8)

Senior Aboriginal women are also more likely than other seniors to be lone parents. In 1991, 14% of Aboriginal women aged 65 and over were lone parents, compared with 6% of both other senior women and senior Aboriginal men.

At the same time, senior Aboriginal women are less likely than other seniors to be spouses in married or common-law couples. In 1991, just 33% of Aboriginal women aged 65 and over, compared with 43% of other senior women and 59% of senior Aboriginal men, were living with a spouse or common-law partner.

Higher fertility rates

Lifetime fertility rates among women with Aboriginal origins only are considerably higher than those for other groups of women. As of 1991, there were an average of 4,676 children ever born for every 1,000 ever-married women with Inuit origins only, while the rates were 4,214 among women with more than one Aboriginal origin, 3,947 among those with North American Indian origins only, and 3,696 among those with Métis origins only. In comparison, there were 2,749 children ever born for every 1,000 ever-married registered Indian women without Aboriginal origins, 2,331 among women with Aboriginal and other origins, and 2,399 among non-Aboriginal women. (Chart 11.4)

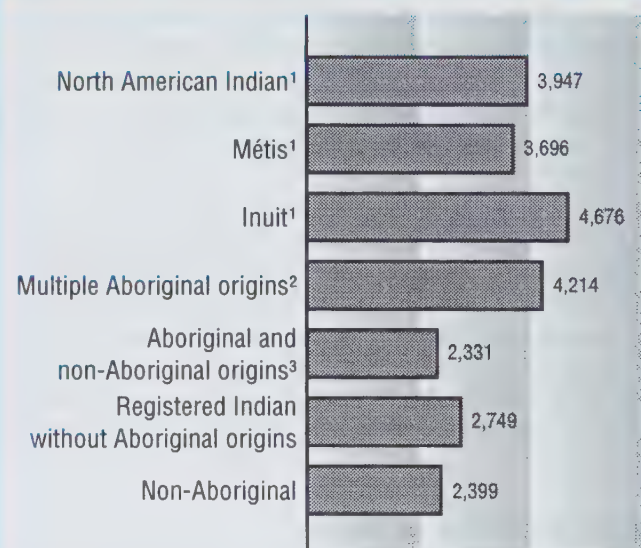
One result of higher fertility rates among Aboriginal women is that they tend to have more children living at home than other women. Among women in two-spouse families in 1991, for example, 23% of Aboriginal women had three or more children, compared with 14% of non-Aboriginal women. Similarly, among female lone parents, 23% of Aboriginal women had three or more children, versus 12% of other women. (Chart 11.5)

Incidence of tuberculosis among Aboriginal women

Aboriginal women account for a relatively large share of all new and reactivated tuberculosis cases in Canada. In 1992, 188 women who were identified by health care providers as Aboriginal women were diagnosed with tuberculosis. These women represented 20% of all women with new and reactivated tuberculosis cases that year.

Chart 11.4

Number of children ever-born per 1,000 ever-married Aboriginal and other women, by group, 1991



¹ Includes respondents reporting a single origin only.

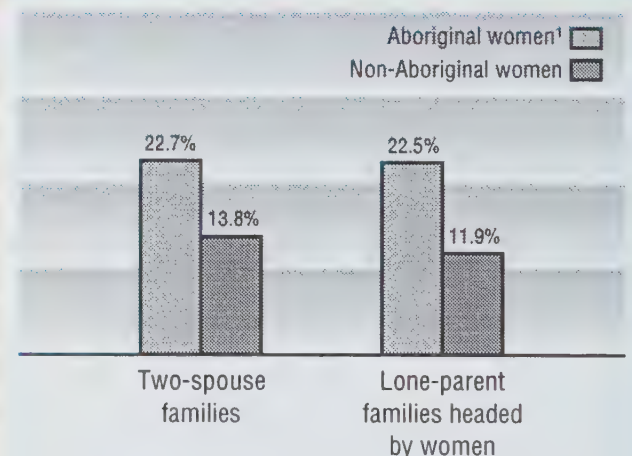
² Includes respondents reporting more than one Aboriginal origin.

³ Includes respondents reporting at least one Aboriginal origin and at least one non-Aboriginal origin.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Chart 11.5

Percentage of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal women with three or more children, by family type, 1991



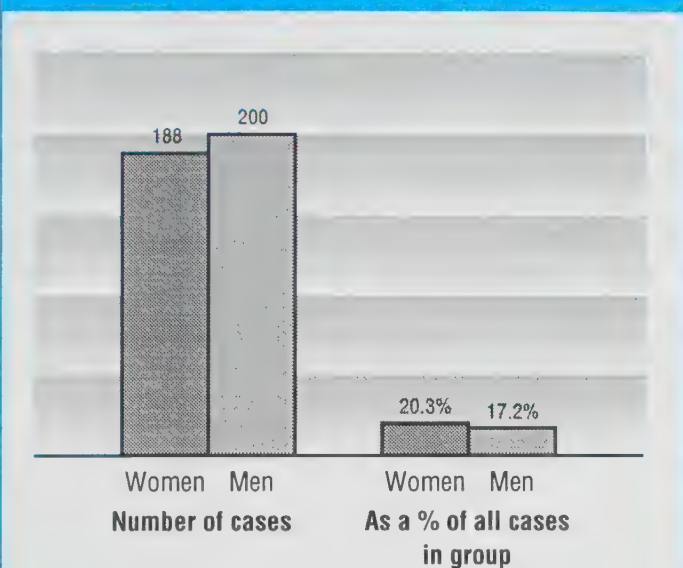
¹ Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

These figures, though, were similar to those for Aboriginal men. (Chart 11.6)

Chart 11.6

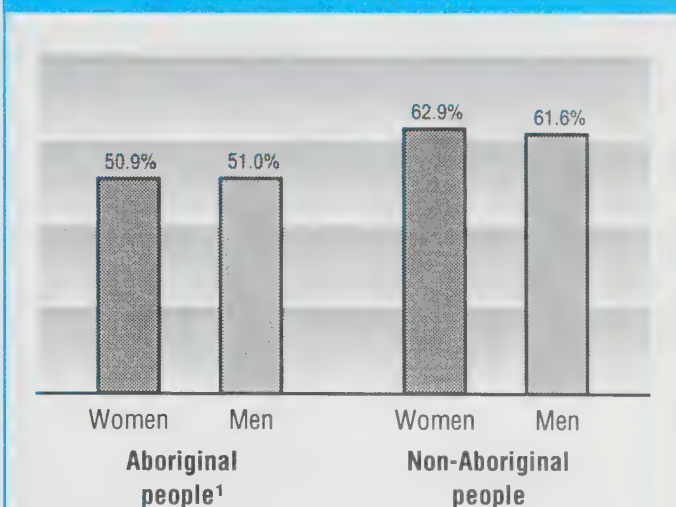
New and reactivated tuberculosis cases diagnosed among Aboriginal people, 1992



Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-220.

Chart 11.7

Percentage of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 15-24 attending school, 1991



¹ Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Educational attainment of Aboriginal women

Aboriginal women tend to have less formal education than other women in Canada. For instance, in 1991, only 6% of Aboriginal women aged 15 and over had a university degree, compared with 13% of non-Aboriginal women. (Table 11.9)

At the same time, Aboriginal women are more likely than other women to have less than a high school diploma. In 1991, 31% of Aboriginal women, compared with 24% of other women, had attended but had not completed high school, while 18% of Aboriginal women, versus 14% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts, had less than a Grade 9 education.

There are few differences in the overall educational attainment of Aboriginal women and men, although, in 1991, Aboriginal women were slightly more likely than their male counterparts to have a university degree, while they were slightly less likely to have less than a Grade 9 education.

There is also little variation in the educational attainment of Aboriginal women and men in different age groups. As in the rest of the population, though, young Aboriginal women have slightly more formal education than their male counterparts. (Table 11.10)

In addition, about half of Aboriginal women aged 15-24 were attending school in 1991 (51%). This was the same figure as for Aboriginal men in this age range, but lower than that for other women aged 15-24, 63% of whom were attending school. (Chart 11.7)

Employment of Aboriginal women

Aboriginal women are less likely than other women to be employed. In 1991, 47% of Aboriginal women aged 15 and over were employed,⁷ compared with 54% of non-Aboriginal women. Aboriginal women were also less likely than their male counterparts to be employed that year: 47% versus 57%. (Table 11.11)

Aboriginal women between the ages of 25 and 44 are more likely than Aboriginal women in other age groups to be employed. In 1991, 57% of Aboriginal women aged 25-44 had jobs, while the figures were 44% for Aboriginal women aged 45-64 and 38% for those aged 15-24. Aboriginal women in all these age groups, though, were less likely to be employed than both non-Aboriginal women and Aboriginal men in the same age group.

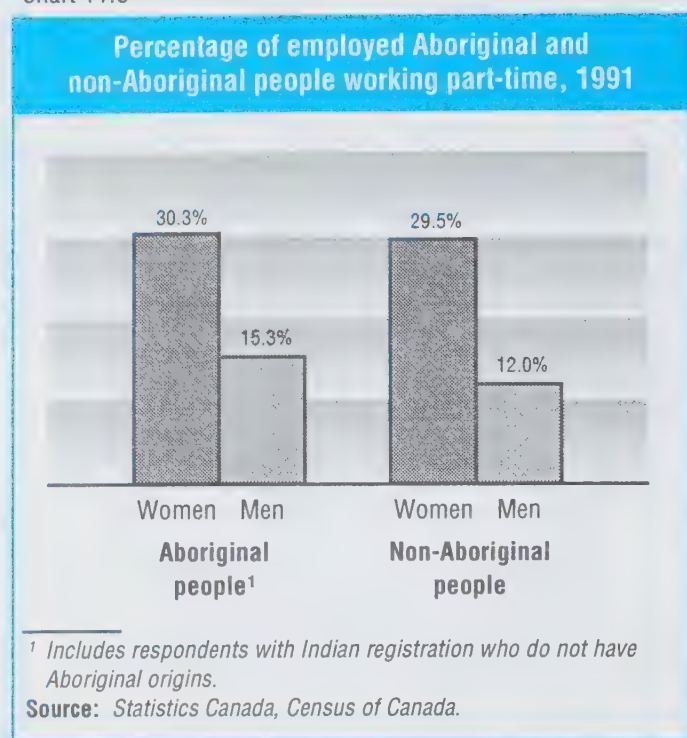
Many Aboriginal women work part-time

As with other women, a large proportion of Aboriginal women have part-time jobs. In 1991, 30% of employed Aboriginal women worked part-time,⁸ about the same figure as for non-Aboriginal women. Also, as with other women, women with Aboriginal origins were about twice as likely as their male counterparts to be employed part-time in 1991: 30% versus 15%. (Chart 11.8)

Occupation of Aboriginal women

About half of all employed Aboriginal women work in jobs traditionally held by women. In 1991, 52% of employed

Chart 11.8



Aboriginal women worked in clerical, service, and sales jobs,⁸ about the same figure as for other women (51%). (Table 11.12)

Aboriginal women, though, are somewhat less likely than other women to be employed in professional and managerial positions. In 1991, 12% of employed Aboriginal women, compared with 15% of their non-Aboriginal counterparts, worked in professional positions. Another 7% of Aboriginal women, versus 8% of other women, were managers. On the other hand, Aboriginal women were slightly more likely than other women to work as manual workers: 13% versus 11%.

As with women in general, Aboriginal women are much more likely than their male counterparts to be concentrated in clerical, sales, and service jobs. In 1991, 52% of employed Aboriginal women, compared with 19% of employed Aboriginal men, worked in these occupational groups.

Aboriginal women, though, were also twice as likely as their male counterparts to occupy professional positions in 1991, while they were about as likely to be managers. On the other hand, Aboriginal women were much less likely than Aboriginal men to work either as manual workers or in skilled crafts or trades: 14% versus 53%.

Higher unemployment among Aboriginal women

Aboriginal women experience higher levels of unemployment than other women in Canada. In 1991, 17.7% of female Aboriginal labour force participants were

unemployed, compared with 9.9% of the non-Aboriginal female labour force. (Table 11.13)

Young Aboriginal women experience particularly high levels of unemployment. In 1991, the unemployment rate of Aboriginal women aged 15-24 was 22.9%, compared with 16.8% among those aged 25-44, 12.9% among those aged 45-64, and 13.4% among those aged 65 and over. Aboriginal women, though, were more likely than other women to be unemployed at all ages.

Aboriginal women, however, tend to experience lower levels of unemployment than their male counterparts. In 1991, the unemployment rate for Aboriginal women was 17.7%, versus 20.8% for men with Aboriginal origins. Aboriginal women were also less likely than their male counterparts to be unemployed in all age groups under age 65.

Aboriginal women not in the labour force

Aboriginal women are more likely than other women not to participate in the labour force, that is, they are neither employed, nor looking for work. In 1991, 40% of Aboriginal women aged 15-64 did not participate in the labour force, compared with 30% of non-Aboriginal women. (Table 11.14)

Aboriginal women aged 15-24 and 45-64 are more likely than those aged 25-44 not to be in the labour force. In fact, about half of Aboriginal women aged both 15-24 (51%) and 45-64 (50%) were not active in the labour force in 1991, compared with 31% of those aged 25-44. This pattern also held true for non-Aboriginal women, although the proportion of Aboriginal women who were not in the labour force was higher than that of other women in all age groups.

As with all women, Aboriginal women are much more likely than Aboriginal men not to participate in the labour force. In 1991, 40% of Aboriginal women aged 15-64 were not active in the labour force, compared with 25% of their male counterparts.

Employment earnings of Aboriginal women

The average employment earnings of Aboriginal women are lower than those of other women in Canada. In 1990, Aboriginal women working full-time, full-year earned an average of \$23,800. This was over \$2,000 less than the average earnings of non-Aboriginal women (\$25,900). (Table 11.15)

Aboriginal women between the ages of 25 and 54 have higher employment earnings than other Aboriginal women. In 1990, Aboriginal women aged 45-54 employed full-time, full-year earned an average of \$25,700 per year, while those aged 25-44 earned \$24,700. These figures compared with \$22,200 for Aboriginal women aged 55-64, \$16,300 for those aged 15-24, and \$15,300 for those aged 65 and over. Aboriginal women, though, earned less than other women in all age groups under age 65.

Aboriginal women also earn substantially less than their male counterparts. In 1990, the full-time, full-year employment earnings of Aboriginal women were only 72% those of Aboriginal men: \$23,800 versus \$32,900. In comparison, the earnings ratio for non-Aboriginal women and men was 67% that same year.

Employed Aboriginal women also earn less than Aboriginal men in all age groups. In 1990, the earnings of Aboriginal women employed on a full-time, full-year basis as a percentage of those of their male counterparts ranged from 65% for those aged 55-64 to over 80% for those aged 15-24.

As is the case for other groups, earnings from wages and salaries and net income from self-employment constitute the largest source of income for Aboriginal women. In 1990, 77% of the total income of Aboriginal women came from employment earnings, about the same figure as for non-Aboriginal women (76%), but lower than that for Aboriginal men (87%). (Table 11.16)

Transfer payments to Aboriginal women

Aboriginal women receive a relatively large share of their personal income from government transfer payments. In 1990, 20% of all income received by these women came from transfer payments, compared with 13% of the income of non-Aboriginal women and 11% of that of Aboriginal men. (Table 11.16)

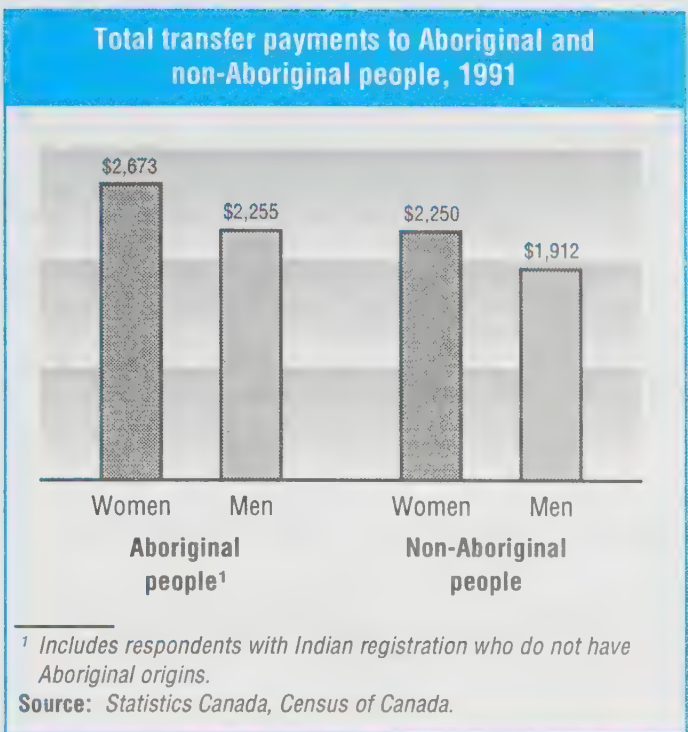
The actual dollar value of the transfer payments received by Aboriginal women, however, was not substantially higher than that received by either other women or Aboriginal men. In 1990, Aboriginal women received an average of \$2,700 in transfer payments, compared with \$2,300 for both non-Aboriginal women and Aboriginal men. (Chart 11.9)

Many Aboriginal women with low income

A relatively large proportion of the female Aboriginal population have incomes which fall below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs.⁹ In 1990, 33% of Aboriginal women of all ages, compared with 17% of non-Aboriginal women and 28% of Aboriginal men, lived in a low-income situation. (Table 11.17)

The incidence of low income is especially high among young Aboriginal females. In 1990, 41% of Aboriginal women aged 18-24 lived in a low-income situation, as did 35% of Aboriginal females under age 18. At the same time, 33% of Aboriginal women aged 55-64 and 31% of those aged 65 and over also had low incomes, while the figures were 29% among those aged 35-44 and 25% among those aged 45-54.

Chart 11.9



At all ages, Aboriginal women are more likely to have low incomes than other women or Aboriginal men. The gap was especially wide among 18-24-year-olds: 41% of Aboriginal women in this age range had low incomes in 1990, compared with 22% of non-Aboriginal women and 31% of Aboriginal men.

¹ Includes women who are registered Indians but who do not have Aboriginal origins, for example, women with no Aboriginal origins who were granted registered Indian status when they married Aboriginal men.

² Refers to the ethnic origins or cultural group(s) to which the respondent's ancestors belonged. Ethnic or cultural origin refers to the ethnic roots or ancestral background of the population and, as such, should not be confused with citizenship or nationality. Respondents with Aboriginal origins include those with either North American Indian, Métis, or Inuit ancestry. North American Indians include persons with status and non-status recognition. Status Indians are persons registered under the **Indian Act** and most are members of an Indian band. Non-status Indians are persons who are of North American Indian ancestry but who are not registered as Indians under the **Indian Act**. The Métis include persons of mixed Indian and European ancestry who distinguish themselves from North American Indians and the Inuit. There are broad definitions of the Métis group. The Inuit include persons descended from the indigenous peoples who inhabited the northernmost portions of the Northwest Territories, Quebec, and Labrador.

³ In the 1991 Census, 386,000 persons reported being registered under the **Indian Act**. This figure is substantially lower than the Indian Register count (511,791) of December 1991 published by Indian and Northern Affairs of Canada (INAC). The difference between census and INAC figures may be explained by several factors pertinent to each data source. Please refer to Statistics Canada Catalogue 94-325 for further information.

⁴ Indian reserves refer to land set aside for the use and benefit of an Indian band subject to the terms of the **Indian Act**. Indian settlements refer to places where self-contained groups of at least 10 Aboriginal people reside more or less permanently. These Indian settlements are usually located on Crown lands under federal or provincial jurisdiction.

⁵ The data in this section are from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and refer only to registered Indians.

⁶ In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, with other relatives in an extended family or with unrelated persons.

⁷ Data on employment refer to the percentage employed in the week prior to the 1991 Census.

⁸ These data refer to the reference period June 1990 to June 1991.

⁹ For a definition of the Low Income Cut-offs see Chapter 7.

Elizabeth Moore is an analyst with the Employment Equity Data Program, Statistics Canada.

Table 11.1
Aboriginal women in the population, by group, 1991

	Aboriginal women		Women as a % of Aboriginal group	Aboriginal women as a % of the total female population
	Number	%		
North American Indian ¹	186,700	35.7	51.1	1.4
Métis ¹	38,145	7.3	50.8	0.3
Inuit ¹	14,900	2.9	49.5	0.1
Multiple Aboriginal origins ²	5,155	1.0	49.6	--
Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origins ³	268,695	51.4	51.5	2.0
Registered Indian without Aboriginal origins	8,865	1.7	64.9	0.1
Total Aboriginal ⁴	522,460	100.0	51.4	3.8

¹Includes respondents reporting a single origin only.

²Includes respondents reporting more than one Aboriginal origin.

³Includes respondents reporting at least one Aboriginal origin in combination with at least one other non-Aboriginal origin.

⁴Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.2
Aboriginal women in the population, by province and territory, 1991

	Aboriginal women ¹		
	Number	%	As a % of all women in province/territory
Newfoundland	6,685	1.3	2.4
Prince Edward Island	1,020	0.2	1.6
Nova Scotia	11,635	2.2	2.6
New Brunswick	6,950	1.3	1.9
Quebec	72,975	14.0	2.1
Ontario	128,120	24.5	2.5
Manitoba	59,680	11.4	10.9
Saskatchewan	49,780	9.5	10.1
Alberta	77,370	14.8	6.2
British Columbia	87,430	16.7	5.3
Yukon	3,375	0.6	25.4
Northwest Territories	17,440	3.3	63.4
Total	522,455	100.0	3.8

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 94-325.

Table 11.3
Urban/rural distribution of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, 1991

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Census metropolitan areas	40.1	37.9	62.4	61.4
Census agglomerations	19.3	18.6	16.0	15.9
Other urban	7.9	7.4	6.9	6.8
Total urban	67.3	64.1	85.4	84.2
Rural	32.8	35.9	14.6	15.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.4
Urban/rural distribution of Aboriginal women, by group, 1991

	Census metropolitan area	Census agglomeration or other urban	Rural	Total
	%			
North American Indian ¹	26.4	23.1	50.5	100.0
Métis ¹	40.6	30.3	29.1	100.0
Inuit ¹	5.7	15.3	79.0	100.0
Multiple Aboriginal origins ²	21.7	24.3	54.0	100.0
Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origins ³	51.8	29.9	18.3	100.0
Registered Indian without Aboriginal origins	43.3	35.2	21.5	100.0
Total Aboriginal ⁴	40.1	27.1	32.8	100.0

¹Includes respondents reporting a single origin only.

²Includes respondents reporting more than one Aboriginal origin.

³Includes respondents reporting at least one Aboriginal origin in combination with at least one other non-Aboriginal origin.

⁴Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.5
Home language of Aboriginal people, by group, 1991

	Home language				Total
	English	French	Aboriginal language	Multiple responses ¹	
			%		
North American Indian ²					
Women	64.3	8.1	22.9	4.7	100.0
Men	62.8	7.3	25.1	4.7	100.0
Métis ²					
Women	80.4	12.6	4.8	2.1	100.0
Men	80.1	12.0	5.4	2.4	100.0
Inuit ²					
Women	32.9	1.6	60.1	5.4	100.0
Men	30.6	1.3	63.2	4.9	100.0
Multiple Aboriginal origins ³					
Women	71.8	4.2	18.6	5.3	100.0
Men	70.1	5.2	19.7	5.1	100.0
Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal origins ⁴					
Women	85.3	12.9	0.7	1.0	100.0
Men	85.9	12.3	0.8	1.0	100.0
Registered Indian without Aboriginal origins					
Women	85.4	11.8	0.6	2.1	100.0
Men	81.6	13.4	1.1	3.8	100.0
Total Aboriginal population ⁵					
Women	75.8	10.7	10.8	2.6	100.0
Men	75.2	10.1	12.1	2.6	100.0

¹Includes respondents who reported their home language to be English and an Aboriginal language(s) or French and an Aboriginal language(s) or other multiple responses. Also includes those with other languages.

²Includes respondents reporting a single origin only.

³Includes respondents reporting more than one Aboriginal origin.

⁴Includes respondents reporting at least one Aboriginal origin in combination with at least one other non-Aboriginal origin.

⁵Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.6
Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, by age, 1991

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
				%
Persons aged				
Under 15	34.3	37.7	19.8	21.3
15-24	18.8	18.8	13.6	14.4
24-44	33.4	30.3	33.9	34.4
45-64	10.4	10.4	20.1	20.3
65 and over	3.1	2.8	12.6	9.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	522.4	493.9	13,133.9	12,843.8

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 94-325.

Table 11.7**Estimated life expectancy at birth of registered Indians and total Canadian population, 1975-1991**

	Women		Men	
	Registered Indians	Total Canadian population	Registered Indians	Total Canadian population
	Years			
1975	65.9	77.3	59.2	70.0
1980	68.0	78.7	60.9	71.6
1985	71.0	79.6	63.9	72.8
1990	74.0	80.7	66.9	73.9
1991	74.0	80.7	66.9	74.2

Sources: Statistics Canada, Demography Division, Population Projections Section; and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Basic Departmental Data.

Table 11.8**Family status of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, by age, 1991**

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged 15-64				
Husband-wife/common-law spouse	53.1	50.8	62.6	60.7
Lone parent	14.6	2.4	7.4	1.5
Never-married child living at home	16.8	24.8	15.5	20.4
Not living with their family	15.4	22.1	14.4	17.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons aged 65 and over				
Husband-wife/common-law spouse	33.3	59.3	43.3	76.1
Lone parent	13.9	6.0	5.5	1.8
Never-married child living at home	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.1
Not living with their family	52.6	34.2	51.1	22.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.9
Educational attainment of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 15 and over, 1991

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Educational attainment				
Less than Grade 9	17.6	19.3	14.1	13.4
Some secondary school	31.3	33.1	24.1	23.9
High school graduate	11.4	9.8	16.5	13.2
Some postsecondary	16.0	13.3	14.2	13.5
Postsecondary certificate/diploma ²	17.3	19.1	18.4	21.2
University degree ³	6.4	5.3	12.6	14.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	343.4	307.8	10,539.1	10,114.3

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

²Includes trade certificate.

³Includes university certificate/diploma below bachelor's level.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.10
Educational attainment of Aboriginal people, by age, 1991

	Aboriginal people ¹ aged							
	15-24		25-44		45 and over		Total aged 15 and over	
	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%							
Educational attainment								
Less than Grade 9	10.9	12.8	10.2	12.0	44.7	45.6	17.6	19.3
Some secondary school	49.6	53.5	25.3	27.4	20.8	17.2	31.3	33.1
High school graduate	12.6	12.4	12.6	10.3	6.8	5.0	11.4	9.8
Some postsecondary	15.8	12.6	19.1	16.2	8.7	7.7	16.0	13.3
Postsecondary certificate/ diploma ²	9.1	7.5	23.6	26.5	13.2	18.5	17.3	19.1
University degree ³	2.0	1.2	9.1	7.4	5.7	6.0	6.4	5.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total population (000s)	98.1	93.0	174.4	149.9	70.9	65.0	343.4	307.8

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

²Includes trade certificate.

³Includes university certificate/diploma below bachelor's level.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.11
Percentage of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people employed, by age, 1991

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-24	37.7	41.4	56.4	58.4
25-44	57.3	70.2	71.9	85.7
45-64	43.9	59.6	52.7	74.6
65 and over	5.2	9.9	5.3	13.7
Total aged 15 and over	47.1	57.1	54.0	69.0

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 94-325, and Census of Canada.

Table 11.12
Occupational distribution of employed Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, 1991

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Managerial	6.6	6.8	7.8	11.6
Professional	12.2	5.9	15.4	10.9
Semi-professional/technical	5.6	3.9	5.4	4.3
Supervisor/foreman/forewomen	2.4	4.2	2.9	5.8
Clerical	25.4	5.6	29.0	6.4
Sales	6.4	4.8	8.2	7.3
Service	19.9	8.3	13.7	6.9
Skilled crafts/trades	1.1	11.0	1.5	11.6
Manual worker	13.2	42.2	10.8	30.4
Total ²	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total employed (000s)	222.2	240.3	7,114.4	8,394.9

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

²Includes not stated.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 94-325.

Table 11.13
Unemployment rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, by age, 1991

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-24	22.9	27.7	14.2	16.0
25-44	16.8	19.4	9.4	9.3
45-64	12.9	16.3	7.9	7.6
65 and over	13.4	11.7	6.6	5.2
Total aged 15 and over	17.7	20.8	9.9	9.8

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 94-325 and Census of Canada.

Table 11.14
Percentage of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people aged 15-64 not in the labour force, by age, 1991

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-24	51.2	42.7	34.3	30.5
25-44	31.2	12.9	20.5	5.5
45-64	49.6	28.7	42.7	19.3
Total aged 15-64	40.3	25.1	29.9	14.8

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.15
Average earnings of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people employed full-time, full-year, by age, 1990

	Aboriginal people ¹		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	\$			
Persons aged				
15-24	16,344	20,080	17,246	20,519
25-44	24,729	33,354	26,935	38,247
45-54	25,687	37,974	27,744	45,607
55-64	22,230	34,117	24,524	41,309
65 and over	15,279	18,361	14,772	29,511
Total aged 15 and over	23,773	32,855	25,908	38,813

¹Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.16
Composition of personal income¹ of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, 1990

	Aboriginal people ²		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Wages and salaries	74.6	82.3	72.9	78.3
Net income from self-employment	2.2	4.4	3.2	7.3
Investment income	1.4	0.6	7.7	3.7
Government transfer payments	19.8	11.0	12.7	6.3
Other income	2.0	1.8	3.5	4.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total income (\$)	13,489	20,578	17,706	30,488

¹Includes only those with some income.

²Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

Table 11.17
Incidence of low income¹ among Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, by age, 1990

	Aboriginal people ²		Non-Aboriginal people	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
Under 18	35.1	33.7	17.0	16.9
18-24	41.2	30.9	22.4	17.5
35-44	28.5	20.7	14.6	11.8
45-54	24.6	21.0	11.7	9.7
55-64	33.1	26.5	17.1	13.8
65 and over	31.3	22.4	22.9	13.7
Total	32.7	27.9	16.9	13.8

¹Includes respondents with incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-offs. For a definition of these see Chapter 7.

²Includes respondents with Indian registration who do not have Aboriginal origins.

Source: Statistics Canada, Census of Canada.

WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

by Michael Bergob

Women with disabilities

The integration of persons with disabilities into the full range of mainstream activities has been a major policy objective in Canada in recent years. In 1991, 2.2 million women, 16% of the total female population, had disabilities.¹ (Table 12.1)

Disabilities increase with age

The likelihood of women having disabilities increases with age. In 1991, 48% of women aged 65 and over and 26% of those aged 55-64 had disabilities. This compared with 14% of women aged 35-54, 8% of those aged 15-34, and 6% of females under age 15. (Table 12.1)

The prevalence of disabilities also increases among women in older age groups in the senior population. In fact, in 1991, 86% of women aged 85 and over had disabilities, while the figures were 59% among those aged 75-84 and 37% among 65-74-year-old women.

Women in the oldest segments of the population are also more likely than their male counterparts to have disabilities. In 1991, 86% of women aged 85 and over, versus 80% of men in this age range, had disabilities. Among 75-84-year-olds, the figures were 59% for women and 53% for men. In contrast, there were few differences in the prevalence of disabilities among women and men under age 75.

Severity of disability²

The largest proportion of women with disabilities have a mild disability. In 1991, 43% of women aged 15 and over with disabilities had a mild level of disability, 33% had a moderate level of disability, and 24% had severe disabilities. That year, almost half a million women (494,000), 5% of all women aged 15 and over, had disabilities which were considered severe. (Table 12.2)

Senior women with disabilities are more likely than their younger counterparts to have severe disabilities. In 1991, 36% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities had severe disabilities, compared with 22% of those aged 55-64, 16% of those in the 35-54 age range, and 8% of those aged 15-34.

In all age groups, with the exception of those aged 15-34, women with disabilities are more likely than men with disabilities to have severe disabilities. In 1991, for example, 36% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities had severe disabilities, compared with 27% of their male counterparts.

Few women with disabilities in institutions

The vast majority of women with disabilities live in a private household, as opposed to a health-related institution. In 1991, 92% of women with disabilities aged 15 and over were living in a household, while 8% lived in a health-related institution. That year, 173,000 women aged 15 and over with disabilities lived in a health-related institution. (Table 12.3)

Women with disabilities in the oldest age groups are more likely than their younger counterparts to reside in a health-related institution. In 1991, 50% of women aged 85 and over with disabilities resided in one of these institutions, as did 18% of those aged 75-84. In comparison, only 5% of women with disabilities aged 65-74, 2% of those aged 35-64, and 1% of those aged 15-34 lived in an institution that year. In fact, seniors represent the large majority of women with disabilities living in health-related institutions. In 1991, 88% of all women with disabilities living in an institution were aged 65 and over.

Senior women with disabilities are also more likely than their male counterparts to live in a health-related institution. In 1991, 50% of women aged 85 and over with disabilities lived in such an institution, compared with 37% of their male contemporaries. Similarly, among those aged 75-84 with disabilities, 18% of women, versus 14% of men, lived in an institution. In contrast, there were few differences in the proportions of women and men with disabilities under age 75 living in an institution.

Women with severe disabilities are more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities to live in a health-related institution. In 1991, 25% of women aged 15 and over with severe disabilities, compared with 4% of those with moderate disabilities and 2% of those with mild disabilities, were in an institution. (Table 12.4)

Among women with severe disabilities, seniors are more likely than their younger counterparts to be living in a health-related institution. In 1991, 36% of women aged 65 and over with severe disabilities were in one of these institutions, compared with 6% of women aged 15-64 with severe disabilities. Senior women with severe disabilities were also more likely than men aged 65 and over with severe disabilities to be living in an institution: 36% versus 28%.

Family status of women with disabilities

As with the overall population, most women with disabilities residing in a household³ live with their family.⁴ In 1991, 63% of all women aged 15 and over with disabilities living in a household were either spouses in a husband-wife or

common-law family, lone parents, or never-married children still living at home. That year, 48% of women aged 15 and over with disabilities were living with their husband or common-law partner, 8% were lone parents, and 7% were single daughters still living at home with their parents. At the same time, though, 33% of all women aged 15 and over with disabilities, 623,000 women in total, lived alone, with an unrelated person, or with some other relative. (Table 12.5)

Senior women with disabilities are considerably more likely than their younger counterparts not to live with members of their family. In 1991, 53% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities living in a household lived alone, with an unrelated person, or with some other relative. This compared with 20% of 15-64-year-old women with disabilities. In contrast, women aged 15-64 with disabilities were more likely than senior women with disabilities to be living with a spouse or common-law partner or to be a lone parent.

Senior women with disabilities are also considerably more likely than senior men with disabilities not to live with members of their family. In 1991, 53% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities living in a household did not live with their family, compared with 24% of their male counterparts.

Senior women with disabilities living in a household were also more likely than their male counterparts to be lone parents: 5% versus 1%*. In contrast, women aged 65 and over with disabilities were only about half as likely as senior men with disabilities to be living with a spouse or common-law partner: 34% versus 71%.

There is much less variation in the family status of women and men aged 15-64 with disabilities residing in a household. In fact, women with disabilities in this age range were just as likely as men with disabilities either to live with a spouse or to not live with their family. Women aged 15-64 with disabilities, however, were considerably more likely than their male counterparts to be lone parents: 10% versus 2%.

Local transportation

Most women with disabilities living in a household are able to get around their local communities without assistance. However, almost one in four of these women was either housebound or required assistance when travelling short distances in 1991. That year, 8% of all women aged 15 and over with disabilities living in a household were housebound, while 16% needed an attendant or companion to help with short-distance trips. (Table 12.6)

Senior women with disabilities living in a household are generally more likely than their younger counterparts to be housebound. Women aged 65 and over with disabilities

are also more likely than younger persons with disabilities to need help travelling within their communities. In 1991, 27% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities required an attendant or companion in order to make short-distance trips, double the figure for women with disabilities aged 55-64 and almost four times the figures for women with disabilities in age ranges between 15 and 54.

Senior women with disabilities living in a household are also more likely than their male counterparts to encounter problems travelling within their communities. In 1991, 9% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities, versus 6% of senior men with disabilities, were housebound. At the same time, 27% of these women, compared with 15% of men, required a companion or attendant in order to make short-distance trips.

Women aged 55-64 with disabilities living in a household also had more difficulty travelling locally than men in the same age group with disabilities, whereas there were few differences in the ability to travel locally between women and men under age 55 with disabilities.

Long-distance travel

Women with disabilities living in a household generally have more difficulty making long-distance trips than they have travelling within their local communities. In 1991, 20% of all women aged 15 and over with disabilities reported they were unable to travel long distances because of their condition and another 16% required an attendant or companion to make such a trip. On the other hand, only 3% reported that they required specialized services or facilities in order to make long-distance trips. (Table 12.7)

Women aged 35 and over with disabilities are more likely than those under age 35 to report that their condition prevents them from taking long-distance trips. In fact, the proportion of women with disabilities in all age groups aged 35 and over who were unable to travel long distances in 1991 because of their condition was close to double the figure for those aged 15-34.

Senior women with disabilities are also more likely than their younger counterparts to require a travelling companion or attendant in order to make long-distance trips. In 1991, 24% of women aged 65 and over with disabilities needed such help, around double the figures for women with disabilities under age 65. Senior women with disabilities were also more than twice as likely as their younger counterparts to require specialized services or facilities in order to travel long distances.

Educational attainment

Women with disabilities living in a household generally have lower levels of educational attainment than women without disabilities. In 1991, for example, women aged 35-54 with

disabilities were only about half as likely as women in this age range without disabilities to have a university degree: 7% versus 14%. (Table 12.8)

Women aged 35-54 with disabilities were also less likely than their counterparts without disabilities to have a non-university certificate or diploma: 21% versus 26%. In contrast, women with disabilities in this age range were considerably more likely than their non-disabled counterparts to have less than a Grade 9 education: 16% versus 10%.

There were similar gaps in the educational attainment of women aged 15-34 and 55-64 with and without disabilities. Again, women in these age ranges with disabilities were only about half as likely as their counterparts without disabilities to have a university degree, while they were considerably more likely to have less than a Grade 9 education.

Overall, the educational attainment of women with disabilities is similar to that of men with disabilities. However, young women with disabilities are somewhat more likely than their male contemporaries to have postsecondary training. For example, in 1991, 6% of women with disabilities aged 15-34 had a university degree and 21% had a postsecondary certificate or diploma. In comparison, the figures for men in this age range with disabilities were 4% and 18%, respectively.

Employment of women with disabilities

About half of women with disabilities in age groups under 55 living in a household are part of the Canadian work force. In 1991, 51% of women aged 15-34 with disabilities and 49% of those aged 35-54 were employed. In contrast, just 17% of women aged 55-64 with disabilities were employed that year. (Table 12.9)

Women with disabilities, though, are far less likely than women without disabilities to be employed in all age groups. In 1991, for example, 49% of women aged 35-54 with disabilities were employed, compared with 74% of women without disabilities in this age range. Similarly, among 15-34-year-old women, 51% of those with disabilities, versus 66% of those without disabilities, were employed. At the same time, women aged 55-64 with disabilities were less than half as likely as women in this age group without disabilities to have jobs: 17% versus 41%.

Women with disabilities are also less likely than men with disabilities to be employed in all age groups. The differences between the proportion of women and men with disabilities who were employed ranged from 22 percentage points among those aged 55-64 to 7 percentage points among those aged 15-34.

Women with mild disabilities are more likely than women with either moderate or severe disabilities to be employed.

In 1991, 52% of women with mild disabilities had jobs, compared with 34% of those with moderate disabilities and 15% of those with severe disabilities. (Table 12.10)

These differences may reflect, in part, variations in age. Women with severe disabilities, however, are considerably less likely than women with mild or moderate disabilities to be employed in all age groups.

Unemployment among women with disabilities

Unemployment rates are relatively high among women with disabilities. In 1991, 16.0% of female labour force participants aged 15-64 with disabilities were unemployed, compared with 9.9% of women in this age range without disabilities. Women aged 15-64 with disabilities were also more likely than their male counterparts, 16.0% versus 13.2%, to be unemployed. (Table 12.11)

Among women with disabilities, unemployment rates are highest among those aged 15-34 and 55-64. In 1991, around 18.0% of female labour force participants with disabilities in both these age groups were unemployed, compared with 13.8% of their counterparts aged 35-54.

Women with severe disabilities are considerably more likely than women with either mild or moderate disabilities to be unemployed. In 1991, 27.7% of female labour force participants with severe disabilities were unemployed, compared with 15.9% of those with moderate disabilities and 15.0% of those with mild disabilities. (Table 12.12)

Women with disabilities not in the labour force

Many women with disabilities living in a household are not part of the labour force, that is, they are neither employed nor looking for work. In 1991, 79% of women aged 55-64 with disabilities, 43% of those aged 35-54, and 38% of those aged 15-34 were not part of the labour force. (Table 12.13)

Women with disabilities in all age groups are much more likely than those without disabilities not to be part of the labour force. In 1991, for example, women aged 35-54 with disabilities were more than twice as likely as women in this age range without disabilities not to participate in the labour force: 43% versus 21%. There were also large differences between the non-participation rates of women with and without disabilities in the 15-34 and 55-64 age ranges. Women with disabilities were also considerably more likely than men with disabilities not to be in the labour force in all age groups.

Women with severe disabilities are more likely than those with mild or moderate disabilities not to be part of the labour force. In 1991, 79% of women with severe disabilities were not part of the labour force, compared with 59% of those with moderate disabilities and 39% of those with mild disabilities. (Table 12.14)

Education and labour force activity of women with disabilities

As in the overall population, the likelihood of women with disabilities being employed increases the higher their educational attainment. For example, among women aged 15-64 with disabilities, 61% of university graduates and 56% of those with other postsecondary training were employed in 1991. This compared with 39% of those with a high school education and just 19% of those with less than Grade 9. (Table 12.15)

As well, the gap between the employment levels of those with the highest and lowest levels of educational attainment is greater for women with disabilities than it is for either women without disabilities or men with disabilities. In 1991, for example, female university graduates with disabilities were three times more likely than those with less than Grade 9 to be employed. In comparison, female university graduates without disabilities, as well as male graduates with disabilities, were both only about twice as likely as their counterparts with less than Grade 9 to be employed.

There are also considerable differences in the unemployment rate of women with disabilities depending on their educational attainment. In 1991, 12.3% of university-educated female labour force participants aged 15-64 with disabilities were unemployed in 1991, compared with 24.9% of those with less than Grade 9.

However, whatever their educational attainment, women with disabilities are more likely to be unemployed than either women without disabilities or men with disabilities with similar training. The unemployment rate of women with disabilities who had a university degree in 1991 (12.3%), for example, was twice the figure for female graduates without disabilities (5.6%) and three times that for male graduates with disabilities (4.1%*).

Similarly, women with disabilities who have low levels of educational attainment are more likely than those with postsecondary training not to be in the labour force. In 1991, 74% of women aged 15-64 with disabilities who had less than a Grade 9 education were not in the labour force, compared with 30% of those with a university degree.

At all levels of educational attainment, though, women with disabilities are considerably more likely than women without disabilities and men with disabilities not to be in the labour force. In 1991, among those with a university degree, 30% of women with disabilities were not labour force participants, compared with 13% of women without disabilities and 24% of men with disabilities.

Incomes of women with disabilities

Of all women with disabilities living in a household, those aged 35-54 have the highest incomes. Women in this age

range with disabilities had an average income of just under \$17,000⁵ in 1990, compared with around \$14,000 for those aged 55-64 and those aged 65 and over and less than \$13,000 for those in the 15-34 age range. (Table 12.16)

At all ages, though, women with disabilities have lower average incomes than women without disabilities. The average incomes of women with disabilities are also well below those of men with disabilities in all age ranges. In fact, the 1990 incomes of women with disabilities in both the 35-54 and 55-64 age ranges were only about 55% those their male counterparts, while for 15-34-year-olds and seniors the figures were 70%.

The average annual income of women with disabilities decreases as the level of severity of their disabilities increases. For example, women aged 35-54 with severe disabilities had an average annual income of \$13,400 in 1990, compared with \$14,700 for those with moderate disabilities and \$19,600 for those with mild disabilities. This pattern was repeated across all age groups. (Table 12.17)

**Figures should be used with caution because of the small size of the sample.*

¹ The material in this section is from Statistics Canada's 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey which used the World Health Organization definition of disability, that is, "any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner or within the range considered normal for a human being." For more information on the concepts and definitions used in this survey, see the **1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey User's Guide**, Statistics Canada Catalogue 82-602E.

² The severity of disabilities among adults was determined by Statistics Canada by counting one point for each partial loss of function and two points for each total loss of function. The total score was then calculated and categorized as follows: severe: 11 or more points; moderate: 5 to 10 points; and mild: less than 5 points. Note that the severity of disabilities of children was determined differently from that of adults, however, the data in this section refer only to the population aged 15 and over.

³ The data in this and subsequent sections include only persons aged 15 and over living in a household.

⁴ In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

⁵ These data include only persons with income in 1990.

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Table 12.1
Persons with disabilities and disability rates, by age, 1991

	Women		Men	
	000s	As a % of all females in age group	000s	As a % of all males in age group
Persons aged				
Under 5	37.2	4.1	47.9	5.0
5-9	53.4	5.9	84.4	8.8
10-14	65.7	7.3	100.7	10.6
Total under age 15	156.4	5.7	233.0	8.1
15-34	350.6	8.2	335.7	7.8
35-54	510.9	14.0	504.2	13.9
55-64	320.7	26.4	324.4	27.8
Total aged 15-64	1,182.1	12.9	1,164.3	12.8
65-74	400.8	37.0	331.9	36.8
75-84	327.2	59.1	180.7	53.3
85 and over	151.1	85.5	57.2	79.6
Total aged 65 and over	879.1	48.4	569.7	43.4
Total population	2,217.6	16.2	1,967.0	14.8

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Table 12.2
Persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by age and severity of disabilities, 1991

	Women			Men		
	000s	%	As a % of women in age group	000s	%	As a % of men in age group
Persons aged						
15-34						
Mild	228.2	65.1	5.3	222.1	66.2	5.2
Moderate	96.1	27.4	2.2	80.0	23.8	1.9
Severe	26.3	7.5	0.6	33.6	10.0	0.8
Total aged 15-34	350.6	100.0	8.2	335.7	100.0	7.8
35-54						
Mild	243.8	47.7	6.7	287.0	56.9	7.9
Moderate	183.8	36.0	5.0	143.3	28.4	4.0
Severe	83.3	16.3	2.3	73.9	14.7	2.0
Total aged 35-54	510.9	100.0	14.0	504.2	100.0	13.9
55-64						
Mild	130.9	40.8	10.8	149.9	46.2	12.8
Moderate	120.7	37.6	9.9	113.6	35.0	9.7
Severe	69.1	21.5	5.7	61.0	18.8	5.2
Total aged 55-64	320.7	100.0	26.4	324.4	100.0	27.8
65 and over						
Mild	277.9	31.6	15.3	230.2	40.4	17.5
Moderate	285.7	32.4	15.7	185.0	32.4	14.1
Severe	315.5	35.9	17.4	154.4	27.1	11.8
Total aged 65 and over	879.1	100.0	48.4	569.7	100.0	43.4
Total 15 and over						
Mild	880.8	42.7	8.0	889.1	51.3	8.6
Moderate	686.2	33.3	6.3	521.9	30.1	5.0
Severe	494.3	24.0	4.5	323.1	18.6	3.1
Total aged 15 and over	2,061.3	100.0	18.8	1,734.1	100.0	16.7

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Table 12.3
Residential status of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by age, 1991

	Women			Men		
	Living in a household	Living in a health-related institution	Total	Living in a household	Living in a health-related institution	Total
	%					
Persons aged						
15-34	98.9	1.1	100.0	97.8	2.2	100.0
35-54	98.1	1.9	100.0	97.5	2.4	100.0
55-64	97.6	2.4	100.0	97.4	2.6	100.0
Total aged 15-64	98.2	1.8	100.0	97.6	2.4	100.0
Total population aged 15-64 (000s)	1,160.8	21.3	1,182.1	1,136.3	28.0	1,164.3
65-74	95.3	4.7	100.0	95.5	4.4	100.0
75-84	82.3	17.7	100.0	86.1	13.9	100.0
85 and over	50.4	49.5	100.0	63.0	37.0	100.0
Total aged 65 and over	82.7	17.3	100.0	89.3	10.7	100.0
Total population aged 65 and over (000s)	727.3	151.8	879.1	508.6	61.1	569.7
Total aged 15 and over	91.6	8.4	100.0	94.9	5.1	100.0
Total population aged 15 and over (000s)	1,888.1	173.1	2,061.3	1,645.0	89.1	1,734.1

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Table 12.4
Residential status of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by severity of disabilities, 1991

	Severity of disabilities		
	Mild	Moderate	Severe
	%		
Women aged 15-64			
Living in a household	99.1	98.8	93.9
Living a health-related institution	0.9	1.2	6.1
Total aged 15-64	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men aged 15-64			
Living in a household	98.8	97.9	92.1
Living a health-related institution	1.2	2.1	7.9
Total aged 15-64	100.0	100.0	100.0
Women aged 65 and over			
Living in a household	95.4	90.9	64.1
Living in a health-related institution	4.6*	9.1	35.9
Total aged 65 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men aged 65 and over			
Living in a household	96.5	94.7	71.9
Living in a health-related institution	3.4*	5.3*	28.1
Total aged 65 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0
Women aged 15 and over			
Living in a household	97.9	95.5	74.9
Living in a health-related institution	2.1	4.4	25.1
Total aged 15 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0
Men aged 15 and over			
Living in a household	98.2	96.8	82.4
Living in a health-related institution	1.8	3.2	17.5
Total aged 15 and over	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Figures should be used with caution because of small size of the sample.*

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Table 12.5
Family status¹ of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities, by age, 1991

	Women		Men	
	000s	%	000s	%
Persons aged 15-64				
Husband/wife or common-law partner	664.4	57.2	690.4	60.8
Lone parent	115.9	10.0	26.3	2.3
Child	117.1	10.1	144.6	12.7
Not living with their family	232.7	20.0	221.6	19.4
Not applicable ²	30.7	2.6	53.4	4.7
Total aged 15-64	1,160.8	100.0	1,136.3	100.0
Persons aged 65 and over				
Husband/wife or common-law partner	250.1	34.4	362.1	71.2
Lone parent	39.2	5.4	5.9*	1.1*
Child	--	--	--	--
Not living with their family	390.0	53.4	120.4	23.7
Not applicable ²	40.8	5.6	15.0*	3.0*
Total aged 65 and over	727.3	100.0	508.6	100.0
Total aged 15 and over				
Husband/wife or common-law partner	914.4	48.4	1,052.5	64.0
Lone parent	155.1	8.2	32.1	2.0
Child	124.4	6.6	150.0	9.1
Not living with their family	622.6	33.0	341.9	20.8
Not applicable ²	71.5	3.8	68.4	4.2
Total aged 15 and over	1,888.1	100.0	1,645.0	100.0

*Figures should be used with caution because of small size of the sample.

¹In this context, family refers to a census family. Persons living with their family include spouses (either married or common-law), lone parents, and never-married children living at home. Persons not living with their family include those living alone, in an extended family with other relatives, or with unrelated persons.

²Includes the Not Stated category in the 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Table 12.6**Local transportation indicators of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in a household, by age, 1991**

	Housebound	Attendant/ companion required for short-distance trips	Need specialized transit	Use specialized transit
	%			
Women aged				
15-34	3.7	7.0	2.8	1.6
35-54	9.0	7.9	1.0	1.7
55-64	6.7	13.7	2.0	1.6
65 and over	9.4	27.1	2.2	6.8
Total aged 15 and over	7.8	16.1	2.0	3.6
Men aged				
15-34	3.3	8.4	3.4	2.1
35-54	3.7	7.4	0.9	1.4
55-64	4.3	7.8	2.2	1.4
65 and over	6.4	15.4	2.8	3.2
Total aged 15 and over	4.5	10.2	2.2	2.1

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.**Table 12.7****Long-distance travel indicators of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in a household, by age, 1991**

	Condition prevents long-distance trips	Attendant/ companion required for long-distance trips	Specialized services/facilities required for long-distance trips
	%		
Women aged			
15-34	11.2	10.0	1.4
35-54	20.8	9.7	1.7
55-64	20.7	12.8	1.8
65 and over	22.4	23.9	4.8
Total aged 15 and over	19.7	15.7	2.9
Men aged			
15-34	10.4	11.0	1.9
35-54	16.0	9.6	1.3
55-64	18.2	10.3	1.1
65 and over	15.7	16.1	2.3
Total aged 15 and over	15.2	12.0	1.7

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Table 12.8
Educational attainment of persons with and without disabilities, by age, 1991

	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
%				
Persons aged 15-34				
No formal schooling	1.9	2.2	0.4	0.3
Grades 1-8	5.2	6.1	2.5	2.9
Secondary	51.2	55.3	45.7	48.4
Some postsecondary	15.4	14.9	16.5	16.1
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	20.9	17.7	22.8	20.3
University degree	5.5	3.8	12.1	12.0
Total aged 15-34	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons aged 35-54				
No formal schooling	1.6	1.8	0.3*	0.6*
Grades 1-8	14.4	17.4	9.4	8.9
Secondary	46.7	39.4	40.3	36.4
Some postsecondary	9.7	10.4	10.1	10.1
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	20.5	22.5	25.7	24.7
University degree	7.1	8.5	14.2	19.3
Total aged 35-54	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons aged 55-64				
No formal schooling	1.7	1.1	0.8*	0.8*
Grades 1-8	31.9	37.7	25.1	24.6
Secondary	41.2	36.9	45.0	39.0
Some postsecondary	8.0	6.3	7.8	6.1
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	14.1	12.9	15.5	15.7
University degree	3.2	5.0	5.8	13.8
Total aged 55-64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Persons aged 15-64				
No formal schooling	1.7	1.7	0.4	0.5
Grades 1-8	16.4	19.8	7.8	7.6
Secondary	46.5	43.3	43.5	42.7
Some postsecondary	11.0	10.6	13.0	12.7
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	18.9	18.5	23.2	21.5
University degree	5.6	6.2	12.2	15.0
Total aged 15-64	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

**Figures should be used with caution because of small size of the sample.*

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

Table 12.9
Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with and without disabilities living in a household employed, 1991

	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-34	50.6	57.8	65.9	73.9
35-54	48.8	65.4	73.5	89.7
55-64	16.9	38.7	40.8	70.2
Total aged 15-64	40.7	55.8	66.1	79.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

Table 12.10
Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in a household employed, by severity of disabilities, 1991

	Severity of disabilities			
	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
	%			
Women aged				
15-34	57.6	40.2	25.2	50.6
35-54	61.8	43.9	20.0	48.8
55-64	24.3	14.9	6.0	16.9
Total aged 15-64	52.1	34.3	15.3	40.7
Men aged				
15-34	69.0	39.5	23.4	57.8
35-54	80.5	52.6	28.7	65.4
55-64	56.6	28.2	12.9	38.7
Total aged 15-64	71.2	41.2	21.9	55.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

Table 12.11
Unemployment rates of persons aged 15-64 with and without disabilities living in a household, 1991

	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-34	18.2	18.9	11.9	12.6
35-54	13.8	10.1	7.6	6.6
55-64	18.4	11.4	9.1	9.4
Total aged 15-64	16.0	13.2	9.9	9.7

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

Table 12.12

Unemployment rates of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in a household, by severity of disabilities, 1991

	Severity of disabilities			
	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
	%			
Women aged				
15-34	15.8	24.0	28.2	18.2
35-54	13.0	11.8	29.2	13.8
55-64	20.3	14.5*	19.6*	18.4
Total aged 15-64	15.0	15.9	27.7	16.0
Men aged				
15-34	15.4	27.6	40.7	18.9
35-54	7.2	14.5	22.7	10.1
55-64	10.1	10.1	27.3*	11.4
Total aged 15-64	10.6	17.0	28.2	13.2

*Figures should be used with caution because of small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

Table 12.13

Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with and without disabilities living in a household not in the labour force, 1991

	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
Persons aged				
15-34	38.2	28.8	25.0	15.3
35-54	43.4	27.3	20.5	3.8
55-64	79.3	56.3	55.1	22.4
Total aged 15-64	51.5	35.8	26.6	11.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

Table 12.14

Percentage of persons aged 15-64 with disabilities living in a household not in the labour force, by severity of disabilities, 1991

	Severity of disabilities			Total
	Mild	Moderate	Severe	
	%			
Women aged				
15-34	31.5	47.1	64.9	38.2
35-54	29.0	50.3	71.8	43.4
55-64	69.5	82.6	92.6	79.3
Total aged 15-64	38.7	59.3	78.8	51.5
Men aged				
15-34	18.5	45.5	60.6	28.8
35-54	13.2	38.4	62.9	27.3
55-64	37.0	68.7	82.2	56.3
Total aged 15-64	20.4	50.3	69.5	35.8

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

Table 12.15

Labour force characteristics of persons aged 15-64 with and without disabilities living in a household, by educational attainment, 1991

	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	%			
% employed				
Less than Grade 9	19.2	39.9	39.1	65.2
Secondary	38.5	54.3	59.0	74.5
Some postsecondary	48.6	66.5	69.1	80.7
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	56.0	65.8	78.6	87.1
University degree	61.3	73.0	82.4	90.8
Unemployment rate				
Less than Grade 9	24.9	16.8	15.4	17.6
Secondary	16.6	14.8	11.0	10.8
Some postsecondary	15.7	10.8	13.0	11.4
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	13.1	11.3	7.7	8.1
University degree	12.3	4.1*	5.6	4.4
% not in the labour force				
Less than Grade 9	74.4	51.8	52.0	18.1
Secondary	53.8	36.3	33.7	16.4
Some postsecondary	42.4	25.4	20.5	8.9
Postsecondary certificate/diploma	35.5	25.8	14.9	5.2
University degree	30.2	23.9	12.7	4.9

*Figures should be used with caution because of small size of the sample.

Source: Statistics Canada, Catalogue 82-554.

Table 12.16**Average income of persons aged 15 and over with and without disabilities living in a household,¹ by age, 1990**

	Persons with disabilities		Persons without disabilities	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
	\$			
Persons aged				
15-34	12,880	18,400	15,360	22,425
35-54	16,935	30,590	22,950	42,720
55-64	14,325	25,320	18,470	42,245
65 and over	14,365	20,625	15,770	24,460

¹Excludes persons with no income in 1990.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

Table 12.17**Average income of persons aged 15 and over with disabilities living in a household, by severity of disabilities,¹ by age, 1990**

		Severity of disabilities			
		Mild	Moderate	Severe	Total
		\$			
Women aged					
15-34		13,515	12,020	10,195	12,880
35-54		19,550	14,720	13,405	16,935
55-64		16,150	13,480	12,265	14,325
65 and over		16,675	13,035	13,070	14,365
Men aged					
15-34		19,270	17,460	13,985	18,400
35-54		35,385	25,270	21,225	30,590
55-64		28,740	23,710	19,680	25,320
65 and over		21,615	20,430	18,935	20,625

¹Excludes persons with no income in 1990.

Source: Statistics Canada, 1991 Health and Activity Limitation Survey.

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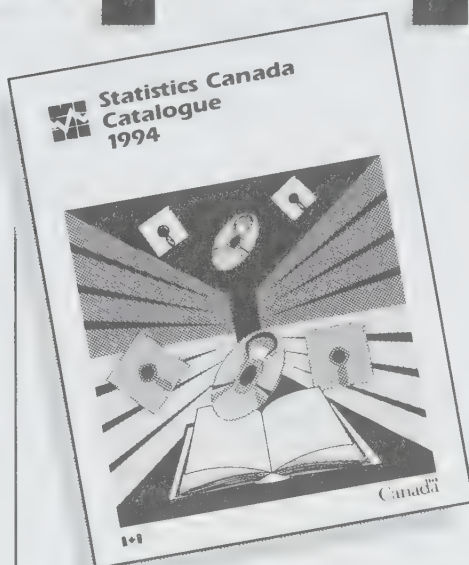
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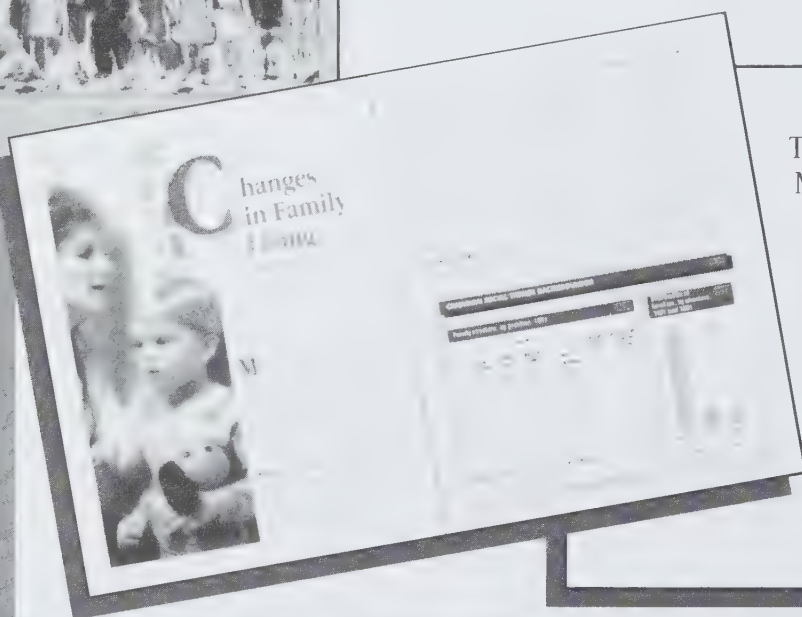
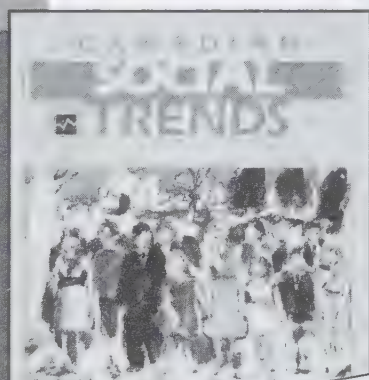
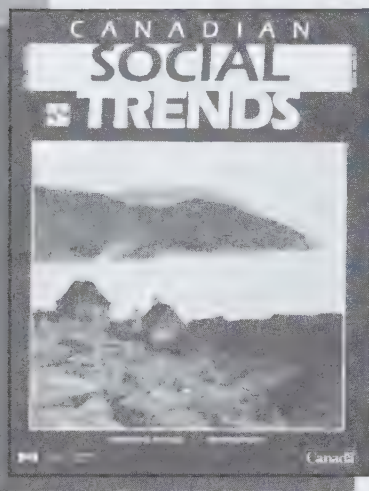
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